

STARS AND STRIPES®

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Navy expects better efficiency by merging dental, medical units

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Yokota girls' volleyball sees spike in wins

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N. Korea says it made nukes from fuel rods

Pyongyang: Growing nuclear arsenal a deterrent to U.S. threat

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Dad's oath to daughter

Yokota officer swears in father, a Misawa chief, for another four years

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KRISTA VALENTINE/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Second Lt. Sherry Mattson, left, a contracting officer for the 374th Airlift Wing, Yokota Air Base, Japan, gives the oath of enlistment to her father, Chief Master Sgt. Brett Allison of the 35th Operations Group at Misawa Air Base, Japan, on Monday. Following his re-enlistment, Allison flew in an F-16 with Col. Michael Boera, 35th OG commander, as part of the 35th Fighter Wing's final flight of fiscal year 2004.

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Artificial heart death: An Indiana man who lived with an implanted artificial heart for 147 days has died, the heart manufacturer said.

Danvers, Mass.-based Abiomed Inc., maker of the AbioCor artificial heart, said Don Graham, 73, of New Albany, Ind., died Sunday "of causes related to device operation."

A statement released Monday by Abiomed did not elaborate on the cause.

Peterson trial: Scott Peterson's defense called a witness to suggest that his pregnant wife's abduction and murder may have been the result of mistaken identity — a crime carried out by perpetrators seeking to attack a woman who looked just like Laci Peterson.

Defense lawyer Mark Geragos noted Monday in Redwood City, Calif., during questioning of Modesto police Detective Craig Grogan that authorities had received a tip early on from a woman whom the lawyer only identified as "Michelle" about the possibility that Laci's killing may have been a mistake.

Abortion doctor shooting: A man who confessed to shooting an abortion provider did so only to win the release of a woman who helped him evade capture, his lawyer argued Monday in seeking to have the confession thrown out in his upcoming trial in Buffalo, N.Y.

The lawyer, John Humann, said James Kopp's confession was the result of a deal between Kopp's former attorney and the government that trumped on Kopp's rights. The former attorney, Bruce Barkett, was also representing the woman, Loretta Marra, at the time Kopp made the statements to reporters, Humann said.

Right-to-die case: The parents of a woman in the center of a right-to-die dispute said Monday they will continue fighting to keep her alive despite a recent legal setback, and are putting their hopes on winning a new trial in a Thursday court hearing.

Bob and Mary Schindler were dealt a blow last week when the state Supreme Court struck down a law rushed through the Legislature last fall to reconnect the feeding tube of their daughter six days after it was removed.

D.C.-area sniper attacks: Convicted teen sniper Lee Boyd Malvo formally agreed Monday to plead guilty to a second slaying and a wounding during the October 2002 shooting spree that left 10 people dead, his lawyer said.

Malvo will accept a sentence of life in pris-



JENNIFER H. SWAN/Stars and Stripes

Teachers and parents train: Sollars Elementary School teacher Deborah Turner, left, and Jeannie Hill, parent of an Edgren High School student, practice role playing during School Advisory Committee training on Tuesday at Cummings Elementary School. Teachers and parents at Misawa Air Base, Japan, elected this year to serve on school advisory committees and received training Tuesday from Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Pacific administrators on their roles as committee members. Across DODDS Pacific, there are 45 school advisory committees that advise their school principals on educational issues.

on without possibility of parole and plead guilty to capital murder for killing Kenneth Bridges and attempted capital murder for wounding Caroline Seawell, attorney Craig Cooley said.

World

Human embryo cloning: One of the creators of Dolly the sheep, the world's first mammal cloned from an adult, said Tuesday he was seeking permission to create cloned human embryos for medical research.

Ian Wilmut, who led the team that created Dolly at Scotland's Roslin Institute in 1996, said he had applied for a license from the government to clone cells from sufferers of motor neuron disease to discover how the debilitating condition develops.

Russia-U.S. extradition dispute: The U.S. ambassador to Russia said that Moscow and Washington stand united in the fight against global terror and sought to soothe Russia's anger over U.S. asylum for a Chechen rebel envoy, according to an interview published Tuesday.

Russia has angrily criticized the United States for granting asylum to Ilyas Akhmadov, an envoy for Chechen rebel leader

Aslan Maskhadov, and also funded in Britain which gave refugee status to another Maskhadov envoy, Akhmed Zakayev.

Nagasaki survivor payments: A South Korean survivor of the World War II atomic bombing of Nagasaki is entitled to receive his medical allowances even though he moved to South Korea, a Japanese court ruled Tuesday, reversing an earlier decision by city officials.

The ruling comes too late for Choi Kye-choi, who died in July. But it is expected to have an impact on similar cases of other atomic bomb survivors living abroad.

Business

WorldCom deal: U.S. telecom giant WorldCom, now called MCI Inc., won a moral victory Tuesday when a European court ruled that European Union antitrust regulators should not have issued an order blocking its aborted bid in 2000 for rival Sprint Corp.

Although the companies have no intention of reviving their aborted tie-up, which was also opposed in Washington, the decision makes it easier for MCI to pursue any future deals by wiping the regulatory slate clean in Europe.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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Okinawa bases keep eye on lingering Meari

BY DAVID ALLEN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — An Okinawa breather a tentative sigh of relief Tuesday, expecting Typhoon Meari to veer away from the island, Sasebo Naval Base and Kanto Plain bases braced for a dozing as the slow-moving storm weakened but still churned its way northeast.

"We don't believe this storm will come back on us. But you never know," Tech. Sgt. Glen DeMars, noncommissioned officer in charge of Kadena Air Base's 18th Weather Flight's Combat Weather Team, said Tuesday.

The typhoon became stationary in part because it lacked the force once it passed to the west of Okinawa, DeMars said. "We believe a cold front now over China

and Korea will pull it to the northeast and it will continue on a track toward Kyushu."

Sasebo, in southern Japan, remained in TCOR's Tropical Storm Watch on Tuesday afternoon, with forecasters expecting no major threat from the typhoon. The closest point of approach to the base was predicted to be about 106 miles to the southeast, the forecast stated.

"Confidence has been upgraded to extremely high that destructive-force winds of 50 knots (about 58 mph) or greater will not occur with passage," the forecast stated.

At Iwakuni Marine Corps Air Station in southwestern Honshu, TCOR Three was issued Tuesday afternoon at 1 p.m., with the typhoon predicted to pass about 112 miles from the base, according to a base spokesman.

The Joint Typhoon Warning Center in Hawaii forecasts Meari to weaken to tropical storm status as it passes over land, passing over the Kanto Plain within 40 miles of Camp Zama, Camp Fuji, Atsugi Naval Air Facility and Yokota Air Base on Friday night, with winds up to 50 mph.

But Tuesday the storm lingered off Okinawa's coast for a second straight day, giving students at Department of Defense Dependents Schools an unexpected day off.

Air Force and school officials decided canceling classes would be safer than facing the potential chaos of sending students home early should Typhoon Meari, which means "echo" in Korean, mimic its name and reverberate back toward the island.

"It's just sitting out there," said

DeMars. "It's moving to the northeast, but not at a breakneck speed."

Typhoon Meari was about 120 miles west of Okinawa on Tuesday morning, with winds of almost 120 mph churning at its center. Winds at Kadena were clocked at 46 mph at 9 a.m.

The island's military bases went into a "Storm Watch" condition Sunday afternoon as Meari passed some 90 miles to the south, whipping the island with winds gusting to 70 mph.

Little damage was reported. The bases remained in Storm Watch throughout Tuesday.

"I've been here for four years and we've never been in Storm Watch this long," DeMars said, noting that typhoons in the area are extremely unpredictable.

In September 2001, Typhoon

Nari lingered for eight days, passing over the island as a tropical storm, then making a U-turn, gaining strength and hitting the island again with winds of 113 mph.

The storm then spun in a stationary pattern some 150 miles to the west of Okinawa before turning back and passing over the island for a third time, with winds of 68 mph.

Typhoon Meari appeared anti-climactic by comparison. It finally picked up speed and began moving away from Okinawa by midday Tuesday, heading to the northeast at a leisurely 9 mph. Bases on Okinawa returned to normal conditions of typhoon readiness for this time of the year. The season's latest typhoon, DeMars said, "should be out of our hair."

E-mail David Allen at: allen@stripes.osd.mil

Navy medical, dental commands set to merge completely by early 2005

BY GREG TYLER

Stars and Stripes

SASEBO NAVAL BASE, Japan — Although patients probably will not notice the change, the merging of the Navy medical and dental commands' financial systems is to come to completion Friday as phase one of a Navy-wide plan to completely blend the two health-care functions.

The complete disestablishment of the dental commands as separate entities is predicted to be complete in early 2005, according to a Navy news report Tuesday. The surgeon general of the Navy first announced the concept last spring.

The Navy Personnel Command's independent review of dental command structures cites an anticipated "cost avoidance of \$4.4 million" over the next five years, the report stated. Officials said the goal is an "improved management process while maintaining the same high standard of care."

For instance, the U.S. Naval Hospital at Yokosuka Naval Base operates medical with dental operations on mainland Japan at Yokosuka, Sasebo Naval Base, Atsugi Naval Air Facility and Yokokana Annex.

Bill Doughty, a USNH Yokosuka spokesman, said much of the cost avoidance comes from deleting duplicated efforts.

"The Navy identified more than 90 duplicated functions at dental and medical commands. Do we really need two separate awards boards, for example? Integration is expected to increase efficiency and streamline services," he said Tuesday afternoon.

More than 95 percent of the Navy's treatment facilities — dental and medical — are in the "same building or within a short walking distance," the report stated.

Doughty said physical changes at the Japan facilities are limited, but still evolving.

"Frankly, most of our customers

may not notice a change," he said. "We do expect, however, to increase efficiency while still providing the same high-quality service to all of our patients."

Capt. Carol Turner, chief of the Navy Dental Corps, stated that speedy completion of the plan is beneficial.

"The quicker we can consolidate, the faster we can streamline our processes, eliminate duplicate functions and optimize manpower," Turner said. In the report, "The early integration also gives our Navy dental leaders a chance to focus on expanded career opportunities through integration into the total Navy health delivery system."

According to Turner, the benefits of integrating the two areas of Navy health delivery are numerous, for the patient as well as for the provider.

Doughty's assessment is much the same.

"Integration is expected to improve business practices and not affect the already high quality of health care services we provide," he said. "Staff members may have fewer meetings to attend and more of an opportunity to focus on patient care, so one thing we may see fairly quickly is improved access to care."

He said leadership realignment is being studied. "We're still discussing details, but leaders from both U.S. Naval Dental Center Far East and U.S. Naval Hospital, Yokosuka are already working together."

In addition, he said, the number of personnel assigned to the command should not change significantly.

The Navy's medical and dental treatment facility integration is part of a Navywide initiative by Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Vern Clark designed to "reduce overhead costs and improve productivity and mission effectiveness by identifying new methods to recapitalize and transform the force," added the report.

E-mail Greg Tyler at: tyler@stripes.osd.mil

The hook-up



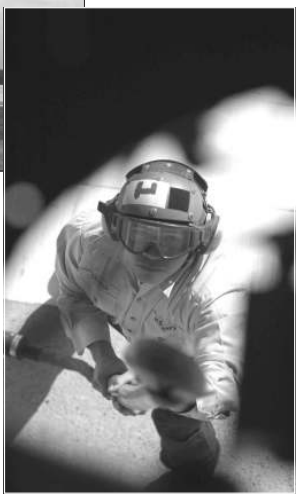
PHOTO BY WILLIAM H. RAMSEY
Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

Above: Sailors at the Landing Signal Enlisted School at Yokosuka Naval Base, Japan, practice vertical replenishment evolutions by connecting a cable from a load to an SH-60F helicopter of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 14. Vertical replenishment is the on- and off-loading of stores while ships are under way.

The squadron, from Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan, is part of the USS Kitty Hawk strike group.

Right: Seaman Christian Castillo of USS Fort McHenry connects a cable from a load to an SH-60F helicopter of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron 14 at Yokosuka.

Top right: Aviation Warfare Systems Operator 2nd Class Bennie Romelt from Oakland, Calif., of Helicopter Antisubmarine Squadron, 14 practices vertical replenishment evolutions.





KRISTA VALENTINE/Courtesy of the U.S. Air Force

Second Lt. Sherry Mattson, a contracting officer with the 374th Airift Wing, Yokota Air Base, Japan, signs re-enlistment papers Monday at Misawa Air Base, Japan, after administering the oath of enlistment Monday to her father, Chief Master Sgt. Brett Allison, 35th Operations Group, Misawa Air Base.

'Doesn't get any better' Daughter re-enlists father at Misawa

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Second Lt. Sherry Mattson forgot her lines as soon as her dad smiled.

A contracting specialist with 374th Contracting Squadron at Yokota Air Base, Japan, Mattson was at Misawa on Monday to repay a favor to her father, Chief Master Sgt. Brett Allison, superintendent of 35th Operations Group.

After logging 26 years in the Air Force, Allison was to re-enlist one last time. Enlisted members must get an officer to administer their enlistment oath. Most choose their commander or immediate officer-in-charge; Allison asked his daughter.

"It's kind of that continual feeling of pride in what she's doing," the chief said. "It's almost indescribable."

The two have shared many milestones: Mattson was her father's escort at his chief induction ceremony, and last May, Allison commissioned Mattson upon her graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Superior and Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps.

The chief found a legal loophole that allows a notary public to administer the oath to commission an officer in the military. Typically, either an active-duty or retired officer administers the commissioning oath.

This time, with Mattson reading the oath, father and daughter had come full circle.

"As far as having your child re-enlist you, I can't say for sure it's a first, but I don't know of anyone else," Allison said Monday after his re-enlistment ceremony.

Mattson said she memorized the oath — "about five or six lines" — the night before, but stumbled when her dad started to smile.

"I just broke down laughing and I lost it and then I had to bust out the notes," Mattson said.

Allison said he smiled at the part where he was to swear to obey officers appointed over him. "Just at the irony," he said. One of those officers "just happens to be my daughter."

Also Monday, Allison flew in the back seat of an F-16 in one of two hour-long sorties to mark the end of the 35th Fighter Wing's fiscal 2004 flying program and more than 10,000 flight hours.

The chief's first ride in a fighter and having his daughter re-enlist him made the day memorable, he said.

"I've been in the Air Force 26 years and have always wanted to fly in a fighter," he said. "To finally get the opportunity and then to be able to roll this in there, it just doesn't get any better than this."

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13 Royal Maces to fly Super Hornets to Atsugi

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

A lucky 13 Royal Maces will be flying what could be their longest mission as they plant their brand-new Super Hornets from California to Atsugi Naval Air Facility, Japan.

The squadron, also known as Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 27, is set to return to Japan on Thursday after four months' training on the new aircraft at Lemoore Naval Air Station, Calif. The retraining followed a decision to trade the F/A-18C Hornets the squadron had been flying for more powerful one-seat F/A-18E Super Hornets. The jets cost \$57 million each, according to the U.S. Navy Fact File.

Flying back is the easiest and most efficient way to take delivery, said Lt. Cmdr. John Bernard, spokesman for the Kitty Hawk strike group, although it will be among the longest flights the aviators will make in the aircraft. During training, as well as bombing runs during war, missions typically last a few hours or less.

How long it will take the aircraft to fly 5,475 air miles is unclear. It takes a commercial aircraft about eight hours. The Super Hornet's two engines deliver a top speed of more than Mach 1.8, according to GlobalSecurity.org, but the plane's increased fuel consumption when flying full throttle makes it unlikely it will travel at top speed.

The Navy declined to say when the jets are to leave California.

Bernard said the aviators would land once at an undisclosed location to sleep. Also, at some points along the way, the Super Hornets will be refueled in the air from U.S. Air Force tankers.

"To get that far, you've got to get a lot of gas," Bernard said. "You have to go to the big gas station, which is the Air Force."

The aviators will land at Atsugi "in waves" every few minutes, he greeted by Air Wing officials and reunite with their families.

In all, some 200 aviators and support crew spent time in California to learn to fly or fix the aircraft, said Brian Naranjo, Atsugi spokesman.

This will be the second squadron of Super Hornets in Carrier Air Wing 5, which flies from the deck of the USS Kitty Hawk when deployed. Last fall, the first Super Hornets — two-seaters — arrived, replacing a squadron of F-14 Tomcats and their aviators. The Tomcats, though beautiful and widely loved, were being decommissioned.

"The transition to the Super Hornet is part of a

long-range plan to replace current forward-deployed naval forces units with newer, more capable aircraft," stated a Navy release. "The Super Hornet is fully capable of conducting both air-to-air and air-to-ground combat and support missions."

The Super Hornet, the Navy's newest strike fighter, is 25 percent larger than its predecessor, offers increased range, greater endurance, more powerful engines and can carry more payload, according to the Navy.

It also can serve as an aerial tanker, fueling other Super Hornets, according to various reports. That will mean increased efficacy during operations because the fighter-bombers won't have to wait for the older, slower planes that traditionally have served as tankers.

In Carrier Air Wing 5, that was the S-3B Viking, flown by the Fighting Redtails of Sea Control Squadron (Vb) 2. Originally designed for anti-submarine warfare during the Cold War, the Viking lost some of its macho image when it was reconfigured to primarily provide fuel.

But now the Viking, nicknamed "the Hoover" because it sounds like a vacuum cleaner, is being phased out of the Navy within the next five years, according to news reports. The Fighting Redtails are to be decommissioned sometime in the next few months.

"There is no plan right now to put another squadron in their place," Bernard said, "because the capabilities they have are incorporated into the Super Hornet."

And because the fighter/bomber jets no longer will have to wait for their tanker to arrive, they'll be able to fly farther, faster. That, Bernard said, means "better service."

The air wing still has two squadrons of Hornets.

The Royal Maces led the Kitty Hawk in May, flying their Hornets to California. That was the first time re-training to fly Super Hornets was an open secret for some time; it even was posted on a Navy Web site. But the Navy, concerned about necessary operations with Japan, did not officially release the news until last month.

The Super Hornets can be a somewhat touchy subject because their added power means increased noise, and Atsugi Naval Air Facility, once remote, now sits in the middle of a populous area.

The Navy has tried to ameliorate noise from aircraft operations by doing as much practice as is possible on the remote island of Iwo Jima.

E-mail Nancy Montgomery at: montgomeryn@pstripes.osd.mil

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AIR FORCE SERVICES CLUBS

Blogs becoming public letters home from Iraq

BY ELLEN SIMON
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Spc. Colby Buzzell's squad was on a mission in a poor neighborhood in Mosul when two Iraqi boys ran up carrying old artillery shells. "Give me dollar!" they said.

Another game carrying bullets and demanding money.

"Then, all of a sudden, this really skinny Iraqi kid comes running up to us with a f— HAND GRENADE in his hand," Buzzell wrote on his war blog. "Drop the f— hand grenade! Drop it now!" We all started yelling. The little kid, still with this proud smile on his face that said, "Look what I just found" just dropped the grenade on the ground, and walked over to my squad leader and said, "Give me money!"

The grenade didn't go off. The squad leader explained to his men that an Army division that had been in the area earlier had paid children for weapons or unexploded ordnance.

For Buzzell, it was grist for his online war diary, <http://cbftw.blogspot.com>, whose fans range from soccer moms and truck drivers to punk band leader Jello Biafra. Before the couplet dropped off the site, says Buzzell, he was getting 5,000 hits a day.

Iraq war blogs are as varied as the soldiers who write them.

Some sites feature practical advice, pictures and advice. Some are overtly political, with more slanting to the right than the left.

Some question the war, some cheer it.

Buzzell and a handful of others write unvarnished war reporting. A few of these blogs have been shut down, and Buzzell, an infantryman in an Army Stryker brigade, says he was banned from missions for five days because of the blog and has stopped adding new narrative entries.

Sean Dustman, a 32-year-old Navy corpsman from Prescott, Ariz., started writing his blog, <http://docinthebox.blogspot.com>, after reading other war blogs.

"I was entranced with their stories," said Dustman, who recently returned from six months in Iraq. "This was where the real news that mattered to me was coming from, unlike what you saw through the regular media. Reading them (the blogs) helped me and my Marines prepare for the trip."

Dustman started a photo blog, where he'd post pictures of his unit. Relatives visited regularly — and let him know with instant feedback when he wasn't getting new pictures up fast enough. One comment: "Where is my Cody?!"

Other bloggers encouraged him to write more than photo captions, so he did.

In April, Dustman wrote about flying over Baghdad. "At night there's hardly a flight that there's not someone shooting at you."

They can't see the aircraft (hopefully), but as soon as they hear one coming, they come out and shoot into the air. Mainly they're hoping to get a lucky shot in. A tracer flies by a window and we're banking and rolling, which is kinda like gambling, they can't see us, we can't see them either, a great game of Battleship in the sky."

Leaving Iraq, he gave a litany of advice for soldiers heading there.

"The biggest way to save money on a trip to Iraq is to have a quality battery charger," he began. Later, he wrote, "Be nice to everyone. Remember, everyone is armed..."

While some military bloggers (or milbloggers) say their commanders have encouraged their online literary ventures, a few say their commanders have shut them down.

Jason Hartley called his blog "Just Another Soldier" and wrote unflinchingly about everything from his buddies' families to the conditions on base.

"I think I've been duped," he wrote from a base in October 2003, while his unit was preparing to go to Iraq. "I'm not actually at a modern US military installation, but Sing Sing, circa 1940."

"My commander had a meltdown when he discovered it," Hartley, a sergeant in the New York National Guard, said of his blog in an instant message. "He demanded I take it down."

The Pentagon has "no specific guidelines on blogging per se," said Cheryl Irwin, a Defense Department spokeswoman. "Generally, they can do it if they are writing their blogs not on government

time and not on a government computer. They have every right under the First Amendment to say any damn thing they want to say unless they reveal classified information, and then it becomes an issue as a security violation."

Military bloggers say they're careful not to reveal any information that would be useful to ene-

mies. "Nowhere does either blog say where I was or give out full names of anybody but myself," Dustman said.

Dustman also said, "Most people do have their minds made up about the war, but bloggers let them know that we're human too, just like them. We're the best way for the public to take a pulse on how we're handling the situation."



THE NEWS SANNO

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IN THE WORLD



Choe Su Hon, North Korea's vice foreign minister, speaks to reporters at the office of his U.N. mission in New York on Monday.

North Korea says it has added to nuclear arsenal

BY EDITH M. LEDERER

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — North Korea says it has turned the plutonium from 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods into nuclear weapons to serve as a deterrent against increasing U.S. nuclear threats and to prevent a nuclear war in northeast Asia.

Warning that the danger of war on the Korean Peninsula "is snowballing," Vice Foreign Minister Choe Su Hon provided details Monday of the nuclear deterrent that he said North Korea has developed for self-defense.

He told the U.N. General Assembly's annual ministerial meeting that Pyongyang had "no other op-

tion but to possess a nuclear deterrent" because of U.S. policies that he claimed were designed to "eliminate" North Korea and make it "a target of preemptive nuclear strikes."

"Our deterrent is, in all its intents and purposes, the self-defensive means to cope with the ever increasing U.S. nuclear threats and further, prevent a nuclear war in northeast Asia," he told a news conference after his speech.

In Washington, a State Department official noted that Secretary of State Colin Powell has said repeatedly that the United States has no plans to attack the communist country.

But in his General Assembly speech and at the news conference with a small group of reporters, Choe blamed the United States for intensifying threats to attack the communist nation and destroying the basis for negotiations to resolve the dispute over Pyongyang's nuclear program.

Nonetheless, he said, North Korea still is ready to dismantle its nuclear program if Washington abandons its "hostile policy" and is prepared to coexist peacefully.

At the moment, however, he said "the ever intensifying U.S. hostile policy and the clandestine nuclear-related experiments recently revealed in South Korea are constituting big stumbling blocks" and make it impossible for North Korea to participate in the continuation of six-nation talks on its nuclear program.

North Korea said earlier this year that it had reprocessed the 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods and was increasing its "nuclear deterrent" but did not provide any details.

Choe was asked at the news conference what was included in the nuclear deterrent.

"We have already made clear that we have already reprocessed 8,000 wasted fuel rods and transformed them into arms," he said, without elaborating on the kinds or numbers.

When asked if the fuel had been turned into actual weapons, not just weapons-grade material, Choe said, "We declared that we weaponized this."

South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister Lee Soo-hyuck said in late April that it was estimated that eight nuclear bombs could be made if all 8,000 spent nuclear fuel rods were reprocessed.

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Saudis to boost oil production capacity

BY ABDULLAH AL-SHIHRI

The Associated Press

RIVADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, will raise its production capacity by nearly 5 percent to 11 million barrels a day attempt to rein in prices that topped \$50 a barrel for the first time, the oil ministry said Tuesday.

By increasing capacity, Saudi Arabia will be able to raise production when it wants. A Saudi oil ministry official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that the kingdom would increase production, "depending on demand."

Oil Minister Ali Naimi announced that the capacity increase would come into effect in the next few weeks, using fields where production has just begun.

"The fields of Abu Safa and al-Qatif, which have just started production, will be used to increase the kingdom's production capacity in the coming few weeks to 11 million barrels per day," Naimi said in a statement. Its current production capacity is 10.5 million barrels a day and it has been producing about 9.5 million barrels a day.

Producers have been seeking ways to calm markets after an announcement two weeks ago that the OPEC cartel would boost its production target by 1 million barrels a day beginning in November failed to bring down prices.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali Naimi said last month that his country was willing to provide an extra 1.3 million barrels of oil a day to the world market if required to do so. There has, however, been some concern about whether Saudi Arabia has the excess capacity to significantly boost production.

Word of the decision came as crude oil topped \$50 per barrel on Tuesday, pushing past the psychological milestone for the first time.

Traders bid oil over \$50 a barrel in Asian trading after the November crude contract settled at a 21-year high of \$49.99 on Monday on the New York Mercantile Exchange in a reaction to the slow recovery of U.S. oil production that was halted by Hurricane Ivan and unrest and terrorism fears in key producers Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Nigeria.

By mid-afternoon in Asia, November crude contracts traded at highs as \$50.47 per barrel, up 83 cents from Monday's settlement price in New York. Later, crude was trading at \$50.02, up 38 cents, in electronic trading in advance of the Nymex opening on Tuesday.

The price of oil is up about 75 percent from a year ago and is helping hurting airlines and other big oil consumers.

U.S.-backed mission takes aim at Abu Sayyaf leaders in Philippines

BY JIM GOMEZ

The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — U.S.-backed forces have launched a major assault to capture or kill at least two Abu Sayyaf leaders based by Washington, sparking clashes that killed a Philippine marine and left an undetermined number of rebels dead, officials said Tuesday.

The assaults, which began Friday in the mountain jungles of Patikul on southern Jolo island, were aimed at Radulan Sahiron, his son Ismin and other Abu Sayyaf commanders who reportedly had planned to meet there last week, apparently to plot another terror strike, military sources said.

Army Brig. Gen. Agustín Di-maala, who was helping oversee the operations, confirmed that assaults were under way against Sahiron's group, about 580 miles south of Manila.

One marine was killed and six others were injured, two while de-

fusing a homemade bomb, officials said.

There was no indication if Sahiron or his son, who are believed to have about 40 armed followers, had been killed in running gunbattles, officials said.

"We're optimistic," Dimaaala said. "The operations are continuing and the troops are still in the mountain."

U.S. forces provided training and equipment to Filipino troops involved in the assaults, but were not involved in actual combat, Dimaaala said, refusing to give further details.

Night-visibility goggles provided by the Americans allowed Filipino troops to locate and engage the rebels late Monday, another official said.

American help in the assaults indicates Washington's continuing desire to help the Philippines crush remnants of the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf in the southern Mindanao region despite a high-profile split in July over President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo's decision to withdraw

peacekeepers from Iraq to save a kidnapped Filipino.

U.S. officials are also reported concerned over the alleged presence of secret terror training camps in Mindanao maintained by Jemaah Islamiyah, al-Qaida's Southeast Asian affiliate, which has been blamed for deadly bombings and plots in the region.

Sahiron, a one-armed, horse-riding Abu Sayyaf commander based in Patikul, and his son, who also has lost an arm, are on a U.S. Defense Department list of wanted terrorists. Philippine authorities have linked them to a number of kidnappings, including the April 2000 abduction of 21 Western tourists and Asian workers from neighboring Malaysia.

The hostages were freed after the payment of a ransom.

Sahiron allegedly planned to meet one or more Abu Sayyaf commanders last week in Patikul, apparently to plan another terror strike, prompting the marines and army to undertake surveillance and assaults, one military officer said.

11 more militants arrested

Captures in Pakistan follow killing of key al-Qaida operative

BY MUNIR AHMAD

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — Pakistani security forces have arrested at least 11 suspected Islamic militants in raids across the country since the killing of a key al-Qaida operative over the weekend, an intelligence official said Tuesday.

Interior Minister Atif Ahmed Khan Sherpao said security forces were seeking to "break (the) network" connected to the slain militant, Amjad Hussain Farooqi, who he said had close contacts with al-Qaida leaders and was involved in "almost all major terrorist attacks in the recent years" in Pakistan.

Sherpao said those arrested so far linked to Farooqi. He would not say how many suspects had been rounded up or whether they included any major figures. And there was no indication any of those arrested were part of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden's inner circle.

An intelligence official in Karachi, speaking on condition of anonymity, said 11 suspected Pakistani militants have been captured based on information yielded from interrogations of three suspects arrested during the shootout in which Farooqi was killed on Sunday.

Officials said at least one of the arrests was in Karachi — a hotbed of terrorism in southern Pakistan. The man arrested was said to be a close associate of Farooqi's but was not identified. Two others were arrested in Rawalpindi, a city near the capital, Islamabad.

Sherpao said Farooqi was involved in two assassinations, attempts on Pakistan's president and the 2002 beheading of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

Bin Laden and his No. 2, Ayman al-Zawahiri, are both believed hiding somewhere along the border between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Officials also have confirmed four arrests in towns in southern Sindh province on Monday, near the town of Nawabshah where Farooqi was killed.

A senior security official in Islamabad, speaking on condition of anonymity, said raids were being conducted across the country to capture more terrorists, including in Punjab, Sindh and North West Frontier Province and more arrests are expected.

In new violence Tuesday, a land mine planted by militants exploded in Pakistan's South Waziristan tribal region, killing two soldiers and wounding four others, the military said.

Pakistan forces have carried out a series of military operations in the area, near the border with Afghanistan, against al-Qaida-linked militants and their local supporters.

Also, a homemade bomb exploded in a street in the southern city of Quetta, killing one man and injuring several other people, police said. The bomb was planted on a bicycle and went off by the side of a road in a neighborhood where government offices and schools are located, said Rehmatullah Niazi, a senior Quetta police official. A

Greek airliner diverted

SHANNON, Ireland — A Greek airliner bound for New York made an emergency landing at an airport in Ireland on Tuesday because of a bomb threat — the second such incident involving the airline in three days.

The Olympic Airlines plane, carrying 25 passengers and 12 crew from Athens to New York, landed safely at Shannon Airport shortly after 5 p.m. local time. Ireland's airport operating company Aer Rianta said.

A spokeswoman for Aer Rianta said passengers were being evacuated from the plane and would be taken to a secure area for questioning. The plane was being searched in a remote section of the airport.

Paternity tests on rise

BELING — Requests for paternity tests are surging in Beijing as suspicious husbands check on their wives' faithfulness at a time of rapidly shifting sexual attitudes, a government news agency reported Tuesday.

The number of DNA tests on infants at Chaoyang Hospital, a major hospital in the Chinese capital, have jumped up 20 percent over the past year to 200 as of mid-September, China News Service reported.

Other Beijing clinics report a similar increase, the report said.

Tracking Japan students

TOKYO — Cutting class just got harder but schools are safer thanks to computer chips that help track students, Japanese officials say.

Some schools here this month began trial runs in which students carry chips that have tiny antennas and can be traced by radio, with some of the kids attaching the tags to their backpacks.

The chips send signals to receivers at school gates. A computer in the system shows when a student enters or leaves.

School officials say rising concern about student safety prompted the idea.

From wire services



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Floridians begin another massive clean up

BY DEBORAH HASTINGS
The Associated Press

FORT PIERCE, Fla. — Floridians were again settling into the discomforts of a post-hurricane reality, lines for bags of ice or a hot meal, damaged homes that will take months to repair, and stifling heat and darkness amid widespread power outages.

Hurricane Jeanne, the fourth storm to hammer the state in six weeks, has left behind a trail of death, destruction and frustration.

"We're weary. We're tired. We have been doing this for more than 30 days," said Jay Clark, owner of CVS Yacht Management and Sales in Fort Pierce. "Preparation, then cleanup. Preparation, then cleanup."

Tom Gallagher, Florida's top insurance regulator, believes Jeanne added \$6 billion in insured losses to nearly \$12 billion estimated from Charley, Frances and Ivan, for a total that beats the \$15 billion tally from Hurricane Andrew in 1992, the world's costliest natural disaster at the time. At least 79 people have been killed by the four storms in Florida.

He noted his estimate of private

insurance claims for Jeanne does not include a high rate of flood damage, which is covered by a federal program.

Remnants of Hurricane Jeanne blew through southwest Virginia early Tuesday bringing storms that dumped 12 inches of rain in Patrick County, washing a woman from her mobile home, and turning roads into rivers throughout the region.

The victim's body was recovered downstream from her home, which had been washed off its foundation by flood waters, Patrick County Sheriff David Hubbard said.

Jeanne killed at least six people in Florida during the weekend, bearing down upon the state with winds of 120 mph. Two others died in South Carolina as the remnants moved through late Monday. The havoc caused by the four hurricanes have prompted the largest relief effort ever undertaken by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

President Bush asked Congress late Monday for more than \$7.1 billion to help Florida and other Southeastern states recover. His third request for additional storm aid brings total possible funds to at



Postal carrier Terry Handy retrieves mail Monday at a box along a flooded sidewalk in the San Marco section of Jacksonville, Fla., in the aftermath of Hurricane Jeanne.

least \$12.2 billion.

Meanwhile in Haiti, street gangsters are holding up aid convoys, crashing food distributions, breaking into homes to steal food and shooting anyone who gets in their way, subjecting tens of thousands of weary storm survivors to life-threatening delays in getting

food and water.

The failure of Haiti's U.S.-backed government to disarm the gangs, including the Cernan Army that started the revolution that ousted Jean-Bertrand Aristide, has created a climate of insecurity that jeopardizes lives in the calamity visited on Gonaives by

Ivan disrupts PCS

Damage caused by Hurricane Ivan three weeks ago prompted Navy officials to temporarily halt all sailors' PCS transfers to Pensacola, Fla. region. Sailors with orders to NAS Pensacola, NAS Whiting Field, Corry Station or Sauley Field won't be able to move to the region until after Oct. 31, according to a news release.

Transfers were suspended as of Sept. 14.

Transferring sailors must remain in contact with detailers for updates. Detailers' phone numbers can be found at www.persnet.navy.mil/phone-book/pers4.pdf. Sailors also can receive updates by calling (866) U-ASK-NPC, or (866) 827-5672. More information is listed in NAVADMIN 215/04, which soon will be available at: www.dupers.navy.mil/navadmin.

From staff reports

Tropical Storm Jeanne

Officials say more than 1,500 people died in the storm and some 900 are missing. Many must soon be presumed dead — washed out to sea or buried in collapsed houses.

Earthquake hits central California

The Associated Press

PARKFIELD, Calif. — A moderate earthquake struck central California on Tuesday that was felt from San Francisco to the Los Angeles area. There was no immediate report of injuries.

The quake, which struck at 10:15 a.m. PDT, had a preliminary magnitude of 5.9 and was centered 9 miles south of Parkfield, according to the U.S. Geo-

logical Survey. The area is 17 miles northeast of Paso Robles, scene of an earthquake that killed two people in December.

A series of aftershocks quickly rattled the area, one with a preliminary 5.0 magnitude four minutes after the main earthquake and three others of 4.0 or above.

Paso Robles police said there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

"It rattled everything hanging on the walls and the chandelier was swinging. It didn't do any damage to our house. There were two shakers, one right after the other," said Ben Brown, who lives in Paso Robles.

The quake was felt along a 350-mile stretch, as far north as San Francisco and as far south as Santa Ana, southeast of Los Angeles, the geological survey said.

FBI has backlog of untranslated terror intercepts, audit finds

BY CURT ANDERSON

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Despite major increases in money and personnel, the FBI is still failing to translate many al-Qaida surveillance recordings in a timely manner and faces a giant backlog of untranslated material from terrorism and espionage investigations, a new Justice Department audit shows.

The report released Monday by Glenn A. Fine, the department's inspector general, found more than one-third of al-Qaida intercepts authorized by a secret federal court were not reviewed within 12 hours of collection, as required by FBI Director Robert Mueller.

Since Sept. 11, 2001, more than 123,000 hours of audio in languages associated with terrorists still had not been reviewed as of April 2004, the audit found. In addition, more than 370,000 hours of audio associated with counterintelligence had not been reviewed.

This backlog existed even though money for the FBI's language services had increased from \$21.5 million in fiscal 2001 to about \$70 million. The number of linguists had risen from 883 to 1,214 over that period, the audit found, while electronic surveillance collection in key languages such as Arabic and Pashto has risen 45 percent.

FBI critics on Capitol Hill said the audit indicates that the bureau's translation capabilities are far from adequate.

"It doesn't do anyone any

good for the FBI to have the terrorists' attack plans in its hands but still not be able to see or hear what the plans are," said Senator Charles Grassley, a Republican from Iowa and a senior member of the Senate Judiciary Committee.

The audit was completed in July in classified form. The version released Monday was edited to remove sections classified as "secret" by the FBI.

The FBI also is not meeting Mueller's requirement that all al-Qaida communications collected under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act be reviewed within 12 hours of interception.

During April 2004, the audit found, 36 percent of such communications authorized by the secret FISA court were not even received at FBI headquarters within 12 hours.

The audit found that the FBI still lacks language personnel necessary to do all the needed translation work, and limitations in its technology, especially computer storage capacity, also cause problems that lead to backlogs.

"Three years after the worst terrorist attack on American soil, the overall effectiveness of a major investigative tool in our anti-terrorism arsenal is in doubt," said Senator Patrick Leahy of Vermont, senior Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee. "The Justice Department's translation mess has become a chronic problem that has obvious implications for our national security."

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New \$50 bills hit the street

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A new \$50 bill with touches of red, blue and yellow hit the streets Tuesday and a new \$10 bill is in the works.

It would be the third greenback to get colorized to cut back on counterfeiting.

The new \$50s soon will be showing up at banks, cash registers and wallets. Government officials used one of the new \$50s on Tuesday morning to buy a \$45 U.S. flag, which came in a box, at a shop in Union Station. Old \$50 bills will continue to be accepted and recirculated until they wear out.

As for plans for the new \$10 bill, Alexander Hamilton, the nation's first treasury secretary, is expected to stay on the front, with the Treasury Department remaining on the back, Thomas Ferguson, director of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, said in an interview.

Various efforts have emerged to put former President Ronald Reagan on the nation's currency, on the \$10 bill or the \$20 bill, or possibly the dime. However, thus far, they have gone nowhere.

The new \$10 bill is expected to be unveiled this spring and put into circulation in fall 2005. That last time the note got a new look was in 2000, when Hamilton's portrait became oversized and moved slightly off center.

"As with the \$50 and the \$20,

Grant gets a makeover

The U.S. government continues its changes to U.S. currency — intended to thwart counterfeiting — with a new look for the \$50 bill. The new bills went into circulation Tuesday.

Security thread: A plastic strip embedded in the paper with "USA 50" written on it; glows yellow under ultraviolet light

Watermark: A faint second image of Ulysses S. Grant is seen when the bill is held up to light



Microprinting: Yellow "50s" scattered around the back of the note

SOURCE: Bureau of Engraving and Printing

AP

there will be subtle background tones and tints. They will be different from those used on the other two so each of the notes will start to be even more distinctive and easier for people to differentiate quickly," Ferguson said. He wouldn't say what the colors on the new \$10 would be.

Colors for the redesigned notes vary by denomination.

After the \$10 makeover comes the \$100 bill, the most counterfeited note outside the United States,

Ferguson said. The \$5 bill won't get a new look, and neither will the \$1 and \$2 notes, he said.

A new \$100 note was supposed to follow the new \$50, but that changed because the bureau is considering additional security features for the \$100 bill. A timetable for a new \$100 bill hasn't been set.

The colorizing project is part of a broader effort to make the bills harder to counterfeit, especially against the backdrop of readily available digital technology.

Three wounded in shooting at day-care center

DETROIT — A man opened fire at an in-home day-care center Tuesday, critically wounding three people including a 3-year-old, officials said.

Police initially reported a fatality, but Chief Ella Bully-Cummings said at midday that two adults and a child were critically wounded.

A 7-month-old also was injured, possibly from being dropped, and was taken to a hospital, Bully-Cummings said.

Police were searching for the shooter, who they said came to the door of the house on the city's northwest side, exchanged words with someone, entered and opened fire.

"It appears as though this was not random," Bully-Cummings said. Two other children who did not appear to have been injured also were taken to a hospital as a precaution, she said.

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United Nations Day October 24

Celebrate this important day with a mouth-watering brunch buffet featuring food from all over the world. Bring your entire Wardroom along with you, too

Seaside Club 243-3379

Ladies Night Out October 1 from 1800 to 1900

Enjoy an evening with your girlfriends and all of you will receive a free non-alcoholic drink

Family Night October 8 from 1700 to 2100

Take your family for a special dinner and receive a 10 percent discount on the entire meal tab. Children 11 years and under will receive free balloons

Columbus Day October 11 from 1100 to 1500

Meet your friends for lunch and everyone receives free drinks including coffee and hot or iced tea

Club Takemiya 246-8075

National Seafood Month October

Receive \$1 off all seafood items on lunch or dinner menus

World Vegetarian Day October 1

Try our special vegetarian meal or one of our lunch or dinner specials. Receive \$1 off our salad bar, too

Yokosuka Jazz Band October 2, 16 and 30 from 1700 to 2100

Enjoy the smooth sounds of live jazz while you dine

Club Alliance 243-5951

Latin Explosion with DJ Martha Thursdays from 2000 to 2400

First Floor

Chef's Choice Night Fridays from 1700 to 1900 Upper Deck Sports Bar

DJ Masa Saturdays from 2200 to 0200 First Floor

Columbus Day October 11

Sail around the world to the Cafe! Receive a free non-alcoholic beverage with purchase of cheese nachos or nachos supreme

Negishi Club 242-4151

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Poll shows Bush has solid lead over Kerry

BY DAN BALZ AND
VANESSA WILLIAMS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — President Bush heads into the first presidential debate with a solid lead over John Kerry, boosted by the perception that he is a stronger leader with a clearer vision, despite deep concerns about Iraq and the pace of the economic recovery, according to a new Washington Post-ABC News poll and interviews with voters in battleground states.

Bush's relentless attacks on

Kerry have badly damaged the Democratic nominee, the survey and interviews showed. Voters routinely describe Kerry as wishy-washy, as a flip-flopper and as a candidate they are not sure they can trust, almost as if they are reading from Bush campaign ads. But Kerry's problems are also partly of his own making. Despite repeated efforts to flesh out his proposals on Iraq, terrorism and other issues, he has yet to break through to undecided voters as someone who has clear plans

for fixing the country's biggest problems.

Bush remains a polarizing figure, strongly admired by his supporters and despised by partisans on the left. Some swing voters who disagree with his policies nonetheless see him as a confident leader and express reluctance to vote him out of office in the middle of the struggle against terrorism, unless Kerry convinces them that he can do a better job.

Among those voters who dislike Bush's policies and are still mak-

ing up their minds, the three presidential debates may offer Kerry his last opportunity to show them that he has what they are looking for in a president.

Americans remain deeply divided over Bush's presidency. As many are dissatisfied with the direction of the country as are satisfied (49 percent each), according to the Post-ABC poll, and overall those surveyed give the president identical negative marks as his handling of Iraq and the economy.

Forty-seven percent approve of

the job Bush is doing on the economy and on Iraq, with 50 percent saying they disapprove. Only on his handling of terrorism does Bush receive strongly positive marks, with 59 percent approving and 38 percent disapproving.

Bush's overall approval rating stands at 50 percent in the poll.

The poll was conducted by telephone Sept. 23 to 26 among 1,204 randomly selected adults nationwide, including 969 self-identified registered voters. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus three percentage points.

New ads attack on personal views of Iraq war

BY HOWARD KURTZ

The Washington Post

President Bush accused John F. Kerry on Monday of not knowing "where he stands" on Iraq in a new television ad that splices together footage of seemingly contradictory Kerry comments on the war.

Some of the statements are taken out of context, however, discarding Kerry's criticism of the war and using only phrases in which he was supportive of the administration.

Two hours later, the Democratic presidential nominee released a counterattack spot, charging that the president "still doesn't get it" on Iraq and "has no plan" for quelling the violence there. And in a ratcheting up of the rhetoric, allies of both candidates are running attack ads featuring Osama bin Laden.

And Tuesday, Bush released a second ad accusing "John Kerry and Congressional liberals" of "putting our protection at risk."

"Strength builds peace. Weakness invites those who do us harm," the ad says, a suggestion that Kerry would be a weak leader in wartime and a country headed by him would be vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

The ad accuses Kerry of "refusing to support our troops in combat" and trying to severely slash intelligence budgets and eliminate military weapons after the first attack on the World Trade Center.

Responding to the new ad, Kerry's campaign accused the Bush campaign of "using the politics of fear" to mask the president's "mistakes in Iraq."

The escalating exchanges mark an increasingly personal debate before Thursday's first presidential debate, which will be devoted to foreign policy. In an airwaves battle that erupted over the weekend, an independent conservative group stamped Kerry as weak on terrorists such as bin Laden while the senator accused the Bush campaign of "un-American" tactics.

The Bush ad shows Kerry making various televised comments: "It was the right decision to disarm Saddam Hussein, and when the president made the decision, I supported him."

"It's the wrong war, in the wrong place, at the wrong time."

"I have always said we may yet even find weapons of mass destruction." A graphic asks: "How can John Kerry protect us when he doesn't even know where he stands?"

In its response ad late Monday, the Kerry camp recycled a famous line from Ronald Reagan in 1980: "There he goes again. George Bush said Iraq war 'mission accomplished.' Sixteen months later, he still doesn't get it. Today, over 1,000 U.S. soldiers dead, kidnappings, even beheadings of Americans. Still Bush has no plan what to do in Iraq. How can you solve a problem when you can't see it?"

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Gen. Myers encourages voting

The U.S. military's top man in uniform wants you to exercise your right and privilege by voting in this year's elections.

U.S. Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, is telling fellow servicemen that "as leaders of the armed forces, we each have a responsibility to take part in determining our nation's leadership."

"In this election year, you — our men and women in uniform — are stationed around the globe serving our Nation and defending democracy. We have both the responsibility and the privilege to participate in our democracy by exercising our fundamental right to vote," Myers said in his 2004 voting message.

"The 2004 elections will determine our choice for president and vice president, 34 senators, the entire House of Representatives, and 13 governors, as well as thousands of local officials," Myers wrote. "I urge each of you to participate, starting with the primaries already under way and continuing through the general election on Nov. 2."

"Recent elections have demonstrated the importance of every absentee ballot. Your vote does count!"

From staff reports

Bush hoping to solve Iran nuke crisis 'diplomatically'

BY SCOTT LINDLAU

The Associated Press

WACO, Texas — President Bush, preparing for this week's much-anticipated campaign debate on foreign policy, is insisting Iran will not develop a nuclear weapon on his watch.

"My hope is that we can solve this diplomatically," Bush said in a TV interview shortly after Monday. "We are working our hearts out so that they don't develop a nuclear weapon, and the best way to do so is to continue to keep international pressure on them."

Pressed on whether he would allow Iran to build a bomb, Bush said: "No, we've made it clear, our position is that they won't have a nuclear weapon."

Bush's comments on Fox News Channel's "The O'Reilly Factor" did not mark new policy. In June 2003, Bush said that "the international community must come together to make it very clear to Iran that we will not tolerate the construction of a nuclear weapon."

But Bush has not spoken out so forcefully on the matter since signs emerged recently that Iran could be on the path toward developing a bomb.

In June, U.S. officials said they had intercepted a message from Iran that said they had started

converting raw uranium into the gas needed for enrichment, a process that can be used to make nuclear weapons. While insisting its intentions are peaceful, Iran pledged to continue even if it means a rupture with U.N. monitors and an end to inspections of its nuclear facilities.

Thursday's presidential debate centers on foreign policy, and Iran is likely to come up. Bush and his Democratic challenger, Sen. John Kerry, have modest differences on how to confront the issue.

Kerry charges that Bush's Iran policies "took our attention and our resources away" from dealing with Iran.

Kerry holds out some hope that a negotiated solution with Iran is possible. He said the United States and other nations should "call their bluff" by offering nuclear fuel for peaceful purposes, then taking back the spent fuel so it can't be used for weapons.

If that process fails, the United States could try to ensure that the International Atomic Energy Agency takes the issue to the U.N. Security Council, where Iran could face sanctions.

In 2001, Bush called Iran part of the "axis of evil," along with Iraq and North Korea.

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CFC # 1700



Entrepreneur Richard Branson announced Monday that his Virgin company is planning commercial space flights beginning in 2007. A two-hour trip, including four minutes of weightlessness, will cost \$150,000.

British billionaire planning commercial space flights

BY PETER PAE
Los Angeles Times

Richard Branson, the daredevil British billionaire and owner of Virgin Atlantic Airways, said Monday he was launching a commercial rocket service that would take well-heeled passengers for a suborbital ride into space.

The two-hour trip, including drinks and four minutes of weightlessness in space, is set to cost about \$150,000.

Branson, meanwhile, will spend \$100 million to buy five passenger rocket ships from Mojave, Calif.-based aviation designer Burt Rutan for his Virgin Galactic space tourism business. He expects to launch the first flight in 2007.

"We hope to create thousands of astronauts over the next few years," Branson said, noting that he probably would be on the inaugural flight.

The spacecraft will hold five passengers, plus a pilot, and is to be modeled after Rutan's SpaceShipOne. In June, his squid-shaped rocket, piloted by Mike Melvill, became the first privately funded vehicle to carry a person into space as it soared to 328,941 feet, about 62 miles above Earth.

Branson said his commercial flights would climb even higher — to nearly 70 miles, about 10 times as high as regular commercial air-

line flights. Passengers will be able to see the sky turn pitch black and see Earth spanning a thousand miles in each direction.

He estimated that over five years at least 3,000 people would pay the fare for what he called a trip of a lifetime, generating about \$600 million in revenue.

Some analysts questioned Branson's latest venture, though they lauded him for his marketing acumen.

"This is classic Richard Branson marketing, doing something really extreme and putting himself out there as innovator and forward thinker," said Frank Werner, a business professor at Fordham University. "But whether it will actually happen, no one knows."

Experiments boost stem cell treatment prospects

BY RICK WEISS
The Washington Post

The prospect of using human embryonic stem cells to treat disease appears a small step closer as the result of two new experiments with the cells, which are mined in political controversy because they are derived from human embryos.

In one report released Sunday, researchers showed that the versatile cells can serve as "biological pacemakers," correcting faulty heart rhythms when injected into the failing hearts of pigs.

In another report, scientists demonstrated for the first time that stem cells can become a cell crucial to

vision. Many doctors believe that several vision-destrating diseases could be fought by transplanting these cells directly into the eyes.

Human embryonic stem cells, derived from 5-day-old embryos, have the biological potential to morph into virtually all of the 200 or so kinds of cells in the body.

Researchers are racing to learn how to direct them to develop into specific types of cells that can be transplanted into failing organs. It is an approach that could launch a new era of regenerative medicine — but only if the cells prove capable of integrating into existing organs and functioning normally there.

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Focus of grand Vietnam rescue mission dies at 85

Airman evaded capture for 11½ days before SEAL team brought him home

BY DENNIS MCLELLAN
Los Angeles Times

Ideal "Gene" Hambleton, a U.S. Air Force navigator who became the focus of the largest rescue operation for one man in Air Force history after his plane was shot down behind enemy lines during the Vietnam War, has died. He was 85.

Hambleton, a retired lieutenant colonel whose harrowing ordeal was chronicled in two books and was the basis for a 1988 movie starring Gene Hackman, died of pneumonia related to lung cancer Sept. 19 at Tucson Medical Center in Tucson, Ariz., said his sister-in-law, Donna Cutsinger.

Assigned to an air base in Thailand, Hambleton, a Rossville, Ill., native, was on his 63rd combat mission over Vietnam when his EB-66, an unarmed electronic jamming aircraft, was hit by a surface-to-air missile at 30,000 feet on Easter Sunday, April 2, 1972.

The only member of the six-man crew able to eject, the 33-year-old navigator spent the next 11½ days evading capture.

Parachuting into Quang Tri province, just south of the demilitarized zone separating North and South Vietnam, Hambleton couldn't have chosen a worse time or place to get stuck in.

The previously massive U.S. ground combat presence in South Vietnam was gone, the North Vietnamese Army had just launched a major offensive against the Army of the Republic of South Vietnam and more than 30,000 NVA troops equipped with tanks and heavy artillery were moving through the area.

A forward air controller pilot involved in the major U.S. air campaign in support of the beleaguered South Vietnamese forces monitored Hambleton's descent, tasked to him via his short-range emergency radio as he dropped into a dry rice paddy and took cover.

His visibility ground fog hampered air search and rescue attempts and at one point a large rescue helicopter was shot down and six men were killed. At another point, a forward air controller aircraft was shot down and both men bailed out; the pilot was captured, but 1st Lt. Mark N. Clark, the back-seat observer, now had to be rescued too.

Hambleton, who suffered shrapnel wounds when the rest of his plane exploded, kept in touch with U.S. forces with his emergency radio and directed numerous air strikes against enemy supply lines.

"Dropping a bomb from a plane is not an emotional experience," he told *The (Syracuse) Post-Sun* in 1988. "I got on the ground [in Vietnam] and found out what war was. I was flying up there with a hot cup of coffee, cigarettes and in a clean uniform. On the ground, I had a few berries and four or five little [ears] of corn to eat."

After the failed air-rescue attempts, it was decided that Navy

SEAL Lt. Thomas R. Norris and a small team would infiltrate behind enemy lines and attempt to pick up Hambleton and Clark at the nearby Cam Lo River.

Aware that North Vietnamese radio monitors understood English, the radio message from a forward air controller in the area told Clark, an Idaho native: "Get to the Snake, make like Esther Williams and float to Boston — go to the river and swim east."

Rescue planners, who had discovered that Hambleton was one of the best golfers in the Air Force and had a vivid memory of the courses he had played, came up with a novel idea: guiding him to the river via a series of specific golf-course holes that had been provided by his golfing buddies. As Hambleton recalled in a 2001 interview with *Golf Digest*, the planners told him, "You're going to play 18 holes and you're going to get to the Savannah. You're like Esther Williams and Charlie the Tuna. The round starts on No. 1 at Tucson National."

Hambleton took him as he was able to figure out they were giving him distance and direction: "No. 1 at Tucson National is 408 yards from the clubhouse. They wanted me to move southeast 400 yards. The 'course' would lead me to water."

As recounted in William C. Anderson's 1980 book "Bat-21," whose title comes from the call sign for Hambleton's aircraft, it is the same title of the Hackman movie, Hambleton passed a seemingly deserted house on the eighth day when a rooster suddenly emerged from the doorway — "food!" thought Hambleton, who would lose 45 pounds during his ordeal.

But when he made a lunge for the bird in the darkness someone emerged from the hooch and shot him in the left shoulder with a knife. In the ensuing tussle, Hambleton used his own knife to stab his Vietnamese assailant to death.

Once he reached the river, Hambleton told *Golf Digest*, "It was three days and three nights in the water and on the bank under thick trees. Then I saw this sump with two men. A Vietnamese in front carried an AK-47. I saw a soldier. 'This is it.' But the other guy carried more than a Vietnamese fisherman had these big, round, American eyes" — those of Clark.

The 11½-day search-and-rescue effort took a heavy toll, according to "The Rescue of Bat 21," a 1998 book by Darrell D. Whitcomb. Among the costs: 10 soldiers and airmen working or supporting the mission were killed, two men were captured but later released. Several recovery team members were injured. In addition to a number of downed or damaged aircraft, more than 200 U.S. supplies, including B-52s, were flown in direct support of the rescue.

"It was a hell of a price to pay for one life," Hambleton told *The Associated Press* at the time. "I'm very sorry."



FACES

Kerry's presidential bid lends fame to his garage band

BY MICHAEL HILL
The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — This could finally be the Electras' breakout year.

Rare vinyl copies of their lone 1961 recording are fetching prices north of \$2,000, even though the band tended to stray from the beat. Two separate CD versions of that same recording are being sold after some "Behind The Music"-style intra-band squabbling.

Of course, it's not musical chops that has renewed interest in this obscure garage rock recording; it's the bassist: Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry.

"Their enthusiasm is only muted by the

fact that they weren't that good," summed up Chuck Miller, an Albany-based columnist for Goldmine magazine who recently bought a slightly scuffed copy of the vinyl album.

The Electras were formed in the fall of 1960 at St. Paul's School, a tony private boarding school in Concord, N.H. The band was named for a cool-looking Buick — not the Greek mythological character — and they played pre-Beatles standards by Eddie Cochran and the Ventures at local school dances.

The seven members, with help from their parents, put together about \$1,000 to produce their one album in 1961. In a basement music room with a single micro-

phone, the teen rockers ripped through covers including "Summertime Blues" and "Ya Ya."

Careful listeners can pick out the steady thump of Kerry's bass — nothing fancy, though the liner notes credit him as the "producer of a pulsating rhythm."

"Frankly, I think he and I were probably the best musicians in the band," said Electra pianist Jack Radcliffe, now a Boston-area newspaper editor who still performs as "Rugtime" Jack.

Kerry left the band after high school, although he reportedly strums the Spanish classical guitar on the campaign trail.

Of the 500 albums pressed, the few that have shown up on the market have sold for

big money. Miller recently paid \$800 to a dealer for a less-than-minor copy that has the name of an old St. Paul's schoolmate inked on the cover. Another copy sold this year for about \$2,500, to the amazement of the old band members.

"Somebody has to be crazy to pay anything like that for the album," said Larry Rand, the Electras' lead guitarist and vocalist, better known as a constitutional law scholar and semiretired teacher in Connecticut.

Rand helped spearhead a remastering of the original tape, now available through www.electrasrockandrollband.com for \$14. He said the reissue was essentially done as a lark now that his old bandmate is running for president.

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Should he stay or should he go?

BY DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In Kansas City, Mo., it's Kirk Black's job to answer for Dan Rather.

The station manager of KCTV, like his colleagues at many other CBS affiliates, is facing a flood of calls and e-mails from viewers angry at Dan Rather for relying on apparently fake documents to suggest President Bush's National Guard service record was less than stellar.

Whether Rather rides out this storm depends on many factors, including ratings, his specific culpability in the shaky Guard story, a potential successor and even, perhaps, the results of a presidential election.

The opinions of people like Black, whose stations give Rather his national platform, may be most crucial.

For CBS, Rather's future a complicated question

"His part of the face of my television station," Black said, "and people who aren't in the business, they don't separate my local anchors from him. They just see it as CBS. It's very difficult as you talk to viewers and try to explain what your position is and that you had nothing to do with what happened."

Viewers of WIVB-TV in Buffalo, N.Y., have more understanding — to a point. "My experience has been, (people say) 'It's not your guys, I know. It's those guys in New York. But isn't there anything you can do?'" said Chris Musial, the interim station manager.

He's counted some 1,300 e-mails in the past week. Most are part of a national campaign

against Rather from conservatives who have hated him since he covered the Nixon White House. Starting late last week, a backlash campaign in support of Rather had started.

There are more than 200 CBS affiliates and 16 additional stations, mostly in big cities, that are owned and operated by CBS.

More than 1,000 radio stations air CBS News.

So far two radio stations — Rather's hometown station Houston CBS radio affiliate KPRC and WNIS, a conservative talk-radio station in Norfolk, Va. — have dropped CBS News because of the controversy.

It's very doubtful that any TV stations will try to switch affiliations, primarily because CBS is the prime-time ratings leader.

That doesn't mean there isn't deep concern over what's going on at CBS News.

"If there are enough people who watch and choose to turn away from CBS News because of their opinions of Dan, that would potentially force CBS News' hand," said Gary Gardner, vice president and general manager of WINK-TV in Fort Myers, Fla.

Few station executives will publicly speak ill of Rather, 72, out of respect for his long and distinguished career as a newsmen.

They were heartened by CBS' appointment of former U.S. Attorney General Dick Thornburgh and retired Associated Press chief executive Louis Roccadri to investigate the Guard story and want to see the results.



Anchorman Dan Rather remains at the center of controversy.

Privately, there's considerable sentiment that "the time has passed" for change, as one manager said.

"They need to phase Dan out in the most compassionate and appropriate way they can," said another executive.

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'Stay tuned for Conan' O'Brien to take over for Leno in 5 years

BY DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Jay Leno's take-over as host of NBC's "Tonight" show in 1992 was fraught with drama and bad feelings, but he's assured the next transition will be as smooth as his nightly sign-off: "Stay tuned for Conan."

The comedian and NBC on Monday chose the 50th anniversary of the first "Tonight" show to set a special date for the 55th — when Leno will step down and Conan O'Brien becomes the fifth host of the television institution.

Announcing a transition in five years is odd for any business, let alone one that frequently plans from day-to-day, but NBC was anxious not to lose O'Brien.

The 41-year-old "Late Night" host was considered likely to jump to another network without a promise of advancement.

Leno beat out David Letterman for the "Tonight" job, sparking a feud that lives on and was even the subject of a book and movie, "The Late Shift."

Leno recalled the animosity on his show Monday, saying "a lot of good friendships were permanently damaged."

"Quite frankly, I don't want to see anybody go through that again," he said.

On his show Monday, Letterman wished O'Brien "all the best" and repeatedly mocked the idea of a 2009 changeover.

"I think he said he couldn't take it another minute so he's leaving in 2009," Letterman said.

"I wonder if I can get a tape over there," Letterman added.

Responded his sidekick, Paul Shaffer: "It may be a little late."

Leno also offered a warm tribute Monday to his immediate predecessor, Johnny Carson, showing a lengthy clip package of Car-

son's funniest moments. Leno was criticized when he took over for overlooking Carson's 30-year legacy.

"Johnny set the standard for how this job should be done," Leno said. "Those of us who do this for a living, we all owe him a tremendous debt."

Oprah Winfrey visited Leno's Burbank set Monday to bring in a cake decorated with a Mount Rushmore picture of the four "Tonight" hosts: Steve Allen, Jack Paar, Carson and Leno.

O'Brien's show, which immediately follows Leno on NBC, will be rerun Monday.

Shortly after he signed his latest contract extension, Leno said NBC executives approached him, saying they didn't want to lose O'Brien.

He endorsed the move and set his own 2009 exit date, when he'll be 59.

Leno's renowned workaholic also made the announcement surprising. He never missed a show until he had to, when NBC had him trade jobs for a day with Katie Couric in a promotional gimmick, and does live stand-up comedy dates when he's not working on TV.

"For the first few years after they carry you out on a stretcher or you can get out while you're still doing good," he said. "I'm not quitting show business, but I realized I'm not spending enough time with my cars."

For his first few years at "Tonight," Leno trailed Letterman in ratings and critical respect. But Leno eclipsed Letterman's CBS show among viewers in the 1995 season and hasn't looked back.

O'Brien's previous contract was expiring this season. The last time he was up for a renewal, Fox tried to lure him with an earlier show, but O'Brien turned it down at the last minute.

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OPINION

U.S. voters know enough to make an impact

Voters don't know too about public affairs, say any number of commentators. The evidence they cite is other than spare.

Surveys show most Americans have no idea who represents them in Congress.

Jay Amrose

Large numbers think the Constitution promises employment to those who want it. Forget it if you think many can tell you who the Supreme Court's chief justice is. Ask voters about a prescription-drug bill passed this year, and 70 percent draw a blank.

The ignorance is truly overwhelming, and so is the moment's fretting about it. After all, Nov. 2 is bearing down on us. Good grief, think the Kerry supporters, the fools out there may give the presidential prize to George W. Bush. Heaven help us, think the Bush supporters, the idiots may be taken in by John Forbes Kerry.

But if the anxiety is high-pitched because of an Election Day being widely described as hugely important, there is nothing new about democracy-doubting. Scoot back to the 1920s, for instance, and there you find the great journalist Walter Lippmann worrying about all those Americans who are "be-blinded, grossly neurotic, undernourished and frustrated." It seemed to him that the "stream of public opinion is stopped by them in little eddies of misunderstanding, where it is discolored with prejudice and far-fetched analogy."

The average American, he is quoted as

saying, has no idea of what is happening in public affairs, doesn't care and is therefore easily picking for "the quack, the charlatan, the jingo."

Was Lippmann himself, then, incapable of error? Of course not. Flus pursued even this brilliant man. Nor should anyone suppose his briefly entertained solution was on target: the creation of "intelligence bureaus" of social scientists who would figure things out and inform the public of the truth.

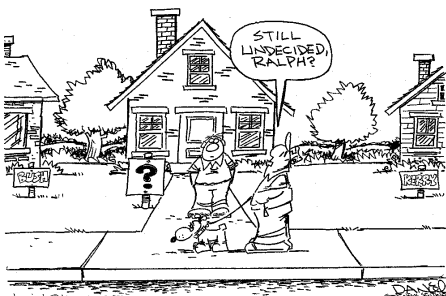
In a sense, we now have those bureaus — we call them think tanks — and what they regularly prove is that experts can be as much a captive of ideological prejudice as non-experts. These experts regularly disagree with each other, meaning that some of them must be regularly wrong, although right and wrong in politics is not the same as in arithmetic.

And, by the way, some rather convincing social scientists have been saying in recent years that the public is rational — that voters can, in fact, be trusted.

Two big names on the issue are Benjamin Page and Robert Shapiro. I discovered through electronic-library research. They examined massive amounts of data from 1935 to 1990, and their conclusion is that public opinion taken as a whole is coherent. Most Americans buy into a consistent scheme of values. They do take note of news and react intelligently to it.

Still other respected statistical explorers conclude that voters in the aggregate have a grasp of social realities and a concept of the common good. Over time, these voters figure out what works and vote that way.

But not always. Democracy is a great good, but scarcely infallible. As the 19th-century philosopher John Stuart Mill helped ex-



Amrose is a CD Warehouse.com

plain, majority rule is a form of public self-protection: Those in power should be "delegates" to the people, "removable at their pleasure," because government might otherwise abuse its ability to prey on them. Mill simultaneously understood that the majority itself can be tyrannical. The greater number can oppress the smaller number.

What to do? In the United States, we have found some answers. We have a Bill of Rights in the Constitution, and consequently it takes more than a simple majority to steal our liberties. We have checks and balances. And most of our policy decisions are made through representatives in legislative bodies, not by a vote of citizens

focused on their own jobs and lives.

The British statesman Edmund Burke knew in 1774 what we keep rediscovering — that these representatives should reject the role of mirror to a public that may be lost on given issues. "Your representative," he said, "owes you, not his industry only, but judgment, and he betrays, instead of serving you, if he sacrifices it to your opinion."

A better educated public? Sure. We all want that. But let's keep in mind as we hope for such advances that the public is rather reliable as is, and that we have so hedged democracy as to keep ourselves safe from ourselves when majority opinion goes awry.

Jay Amrose is director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard Newspapers.

‘This column brought to you by Snickers’ isn’t funny

Let us now skewer a new advertising-industry technique for so thoroughly concealing itself as to trick us into believing no one is called to exist. The trickery I'm referring to is called "product placement."

Bonnie Erbe

The average American consumer is pounded daily by ads in newspapers, on television, on radio, at bus stops and train stations, and roadside billboards, in Internet pop-ups and recorded telemarketing spiels. Ads, ads — they're everywhere. But a much more venal form of capitalism's unwanted stepchild (the relentless pitch) has grown in use and efficacy to the point where advertising as we know it is falling from favor.

Product placement is a more venal (and subliminal) pitch mode.

Advertisers traditionally procure an annoying but nonetheless legitimate marketing segment that is separate and distinct from the entertainment vehicle in which it airs. Now, advertisers have found they might penetrate your subconscious all the more stealthily by placing products in the content portions of those programs.

This mendacious trend apparently started in the movies. One of the earliest examples dates back a half-century when, HowStuffWorks.com notes, "Gordon's Gin paid to have Katharine Hepburn's character in 'The African Queen' toss loads of its product overboard. Since then, there have been countless placements in movies.

In fact, surreptitious sales pitches are so ubiquitous, the trailer for the movie "Josie

and the Pussycats" spoofed the practice. It squeezed "placed" products from all the following companies into a two-minute time frame, according to HowStuffWorks.com: "America Online, American Express, Bebe, Billboard Magazine, Bugles, Campbell's Soup, Coke, Entertainment Weekly Magazine, Evian, Ford, Gatorade, Kodak, Krispy Kreme, McDonald's, Milky Way, Motorola, Pepperidge Farm Cookies, Pizza Hut, Pringles, Puma, Ray-Ban, Sega, Starbucks, Steve Madden, Target and T.J. Maxx."

Not all placements are purchased. Some come in exchange for providing a studio or network with props at the last minute. Yes, so cunning and sadly successful is the scheme, it has expanded beyond Hollywood. At least in movies, it could be argued, no consumer so much as expects reality, honesty or even, most times, intellectual rigor.

Now advertisers are venturing into other

media. A recent Wall Street Journal interview promoted a rising network executive star who gushed shamelessly about her cross-platform product-placement powers (the woman is in charge of placing products on a variety of co-owned broadcast and cable networks as well as other media).

Call me crazy, but I prefer to know when I'm some ad agency's target of opportunity. I need to know so I can ignore the message, vent my resentment and go out of my way not to patronize the brand or product that invaded my space. I need to know so I can buy the generic version (if one's available).

Then I'm secure in the knowledge no one's exaggerated the capabilities of my small-dollar purchase (cleans all surfaces, relieves cold symptoms, etc.). I rest easier knowing my money is not subsidizing the exorbitant salary of some Madison Avenue sorcerer who is owed as little toward that prod-

uct's success as the Wizard of Oz was for getting Dorothy back to Kansas (and we all know the charman was pulled on the Wizard's lame slippers, too).

Major advertisers are beginning to understand that consumers don't trust ads. Some are shifting resources toward more hidden product placement or feel-good promotion.

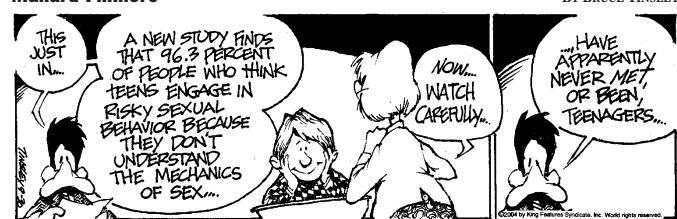
The Gallup Organization noted in a 2002 Web posting, "There is mounting evidence that leading companies may be questioning the role of advertising and the amounts they have been spending on it."

As that happens, we as consumers and as targets need to be on guard for the barrage of hidden sales pitches, so we can inure ourselves to them, as we are inuring ourselves to the obvious ones.

TV host Bonnie Erbe writes this column for Scripps Howard News Service.

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Bat-friendly cave

VT DORSET — There is a new cave protecting the entrance to Dorset Cave on Mount Aeolus, the highest known cave in New England, where up to 20,000 bats are known to spend the winter.

The \$16,625 iron gate across the mouth of the cave is designed to keep people out and protect the state's most precious bat habitat inside the limestone cave.

Several species of bats — including the rare Indiana bat and the state-endangered small-footed bat — are here after completing an annual migration to the high-elevation cave this month.

The gate closes off Dorset Cave, often explored by intrepid hikers or cavers, from Sept. 1 to June 1. Swaps are allowed to explore its guano-covered floor in the summer. A gate was built 19 years ago, but rebuilt this year to be more human-proof and bat-friendly.

College under review

IN NOBLESVILLE — A judge ordered officials of Earham College to provide financial details of its operation of the Conner Prairie museum. The 1,400-acre, living history museum draws about 300,000 visitors annually. Attorney General Steve Carter began a review of the museum's finances after Earham fired its museum's president and 27 of its 31 board members.

Alligator round-up

TX CORPUS CHRISTI — Corpus Christi Beach is used to catering to the tourist crowd with alligators — just not the scaly, four-legged kind. It took authorities more than three hours and a raw chicken to snag a 6-foot-long alligator.

Rocco Montesano, executive director of Texas Parks and Wildlife said it was unusual for alligators to be in the area, but most unusual to be on the beach. The alligator, believed to be about 3 years old, was released in a more suitable, undisclosed location.

Snake sightings increase

NC DURHAM — When Herb Urbens' cat, Maggie, dumped a freshly killed copperhead on his back porch, he realized his recent snake sightings were adding up.

Urbens joins the growing ranks of area residents who have noticed more serpents out and about during the past month.

Displaced by cold winds and soggy terrain during prime breeding season, the snakes are searching for higher and drier ground, slithering into dens and decks, garages and gardens.

Recently, a child-care center was closed because of snake sightings inside the building. The two serpents found inside the building later were identified as nonvenomous water snakes.

Judge hurt in blast

IL FLORA — A judge was critically injured when a massive explosion destroyed his house.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

authorities said.

The explosion also damaged several nearby homes and businesses, and briefly disrupted electric service in and near Florida.

The blast knocked Clay County Circuit Judge Alan Buck out of his house and into a field, authorities said.

Buck was treated at a local hospital and later transferred to St. John's Hospital in Springfield, about 100 miles northwest, where a nursing supervisor reported the judge's condition as critical.

Flora Police Chief Rick Perry said an investigation is under way to determine the cause of the explosion, which was heard as far as four miles away.

Subway injuries down

DC WASHINGTON — Metro said the number of injuries on the subway is down. New figures show a 12-percent decrease from last year. Metro attributes the decrease to its safety education program, and good weather, which reduces slipping and falling. Bus collisions were up, though, with 65 more accidents compared to a year ago.

Daughter charged

NY WALTON — A North Carolina woman was charged with killing her 95-year-old father, who authorities thought died of natural causes, more than a year ago.

New York State Police claim Colby Anne Thompson, 50, of

Asheville, N.C., suffocated her father in his Walton home on June 21, 2003.

Thomas Beers, manager of Lyon Bros.-Way Funeral Home in Walton, said a court had ordered the exhumation of Seth R. Thompson's body within the last month. It was examined at Albany Medical Center.

Colby Thompson was arrested for second-degree murder after state police investigators traveled to her home.

State police did not release a motive and didn't say what evidence prompted the homicide investigation.

Replica plane crashes

CA FULLERTON — A replica of an antique plane crashed seconds after takeoff, just missing an airport control tower and landing into a parked car that had two women inside.

No one was killed, but a man in the plane suffered severe burns.

The 1986 Bushmaster broke apart on impact and erupted in flames, said Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Jerry Johnston.

The crash occurred in front of hundreds of people who were at the small Fullerton Municipal Airport in Orange County for an exhibition featuring displays of vintage and experimental planes.

Train strikes car, kills 1

MN MINNEAPOLIS — A commuter train broadsided a car that went through a railroad crossing arm, killing the 87-year-old driver.

The 40 passengers on the train were unharmed.

The driver was headed south when he turned into the path of the northbound train, said Bob Gibbons, spokesman for Metro Transit.

Authorities identified the driver as Hilmer A. Iverson of Minneapolis. He had glaucoma and trouble hearing, according to his son, Gregg Iverson.

There were no indications Iverson was trying to beat the train, which was going about 40 mph. "Witnesses have told us that he was driving slowly," Gibbons said.

The train line, part of the city's new light rail system, was shut down for almost three hours while authorities reconstructed the accident.

Groom dies in ATV crash

ME WASHINGTON — A South China man died when the all-terrain vehicle he was operating struck a rock wall, overturned and landed on him.

The accident happened just hours before the victim, 24-year-old Nicholas Tucker, was to get married.

Tucker was operating the ATV near the Washington-Palermo line when it crashed, according to the Knox County Sheriff's office. He was traveling southbound on a dirt road testing out a friend's ATV, said Sgt. Steven Burns.

Tucker expected to be gone 15 to 20 minutes and wasn't wearing a helmet. When he failed to return, his older brother went looking for him and found him under the overturned ATV.

Police listed speed and inexperience as the primary causes of the accident, which is under investigation.



Flash dance

Dennis Graf, center, flashes the crowd during the Dayton Valley Days parade while his father Dalos, commands the Dayton Silver Squares float in Dayton, Nev. The Grafts were helping promote their square dance club at the event.



Corny proposal

A marriage proposal is carved in to a corn field near Napoleon, Ohio. Corey Cook paid the farmer to carve the heart and proposal into his field so it could be seen by his girlfriend, Michelle See, as they flew in a small plane to a family cabin in Indiana.



Patriotic feline

Bob Crawford of Enfield, Conn., holds his patriotic cat, Cheddar, during a pet, dog and cat expo at the Seaport World Trade Center in Boston, Ma.



Testing the pipes

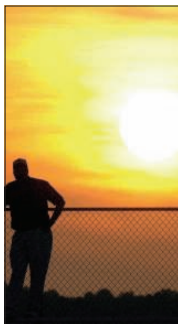
Tim Cole, a solo piper from Southern Pines, N.C., plays the bagpipes during the 35th Malcolm Blue Festival in Aberdeen, N.C.



Crazy for education Cheryl Vassar, left, playing a pelican, reacts to having her costume cinched up back stage at Forest Heights Elementary School in Baton Rouge before Governor Kathleen Blanco launches a new youth education program about coastal erosion.



Big imagination Jay Manfreda, 7, of Sterling Heights, Mich., is outsize by a huge light bulb on display at the Thomas Edison Museum in Port Huron, Mich.



Peaceful wait A football fan from Dade County, Ga., waits for the start of the football game in Adairsville, Ga., as the sunsets.



Pipeful of fun Seven-year-old Soomin Kim enjoys the nice weather as she stops to play in a brand new drain pipe waiting to be used in River Edge, N.J.

Boy charged with arson

PA SUGAR NOTCH — A 7-year-old boy was charged with arson and second-degree homicide for setting a house fire that killed a retired school guidance counselor.

Benjamin Morris, 76, died in a June 12 blaze that began on the back porch of his home in Sugar Notch, a few miles southwest of Wilkes Barre.

The house, which burned to the ground, was filled with papers and clutter, and had only one passable exit, according to firefighters.

Prosecutors declined to reveal much about the investigation, citing the boy's age.

Recruiting rule dropped

MS GULFPORT — A federal judge lifted a 33-year-old order requiring the Mississippi Highway Patrol to recruit equal numbers of blacks and whites for its training programs. Public Safety Commissioner Rusty Fortenberry said he wants the best, most qualified people to serve the state's citizens, regardless of race or sex.

Animal fund indictment

TX TYLER — Over the past decade, Smith County Sheriff's Department officials have raised more than \$500,000 for search-and-rescue animals but spent much of the money for other purposes, including guns and cash for undercover drug deals, according to a published report.

Jack Madera, the founder and former head of Mid-States, was indicted by a Dallas County grand jury for falsifying government documents to get a jail contract in Kaufman County.

The K-9 and Livestock Fund was set up to pay for horses and bloodhounds used in search and rescue operations, but donations were used for other purposes, including \$37,260 to buy 340 shotguns from the Texas Adjunct General's Office.

Card player kills robber

NY BUFFALO — At a city social club where senior citizens gather to play cards, a 64-year-old man shot an armed robber dead, police said.

Two masked robbers carrying a shotgun and pistol entered the club and told the five people playing cards not to move, Detective Mary Gugliuzza said. The robbery went off inside the small storefront, and one card player hit the floor.

Another card player, apparently believing his friend was shot, pulled out his gun and fired, Gugliuzza said. As the robber was hit, his shotgun went off again, wounding his accomplice in the arm.

Warren Zontali, 16, of Buffalo, was later charged with first-degree robbery and weapon possession, police said.

Owl numbers declining

DC WASHINGTON — Fourteen years after coming under federal protection, the northern spotted owl continues on the decline in the Pacific Northwest, a study shows.

The report said the owl, an icon of the Northwest timber wars, no longer faces the threat it once did from logging. It faces new ones, however, principally the wildfires

that rage through overgrown forests and the barred owl, a relative of the spotted owl, which rapidly is taking over spotted owl habitat in the West.

The study, conducted by a private firm for the Fish and Wildlife Service, appears to strike a blow at timber industry efforts to loosen restrictions on federal forest logging in Washington, Oregon and northern California.

Overall, northern spotted owls declined annually by about 3.7 percent from 1985 to 2003, the report suggests.

Union recommends raise

WA OLYMPIA — The Washington Federation of State Employees is recommending that the 30,000 workers it represents approve a contract agreement. It calls for a 3.2 percent pay raise next year, if the Legislature approves. The union is the largest of the state unions that negotiated for the first time this year with the governor's office.

New lottery chief

MN ST. PAUL — Gov. Tim Pawlenty has recruited South Dakota's lottery chief Clint Harris to take the same job in Minnesota. Harris has been executive director of South Dakota's lottery since May 2003 but was acting chief for three years before that. His selection comes nine months after longtime Minnesota Lottery head George Andersen committed suicide.

Cell phones not allowed

VT BENNINGTON — The school district that covers much of southwestern Vermont is clamping down on student use of cell phones and pagers.

The latest draft of the proposal for the six districts in the Southwestern Vermont Supervisory Union would allow students to have cell phones and pagers on school property, but would require that they be turned off on buses and during school hours.

Teachers and staff are not exempt from the rules. The policy says they can only use wireless communication devices for "job-related communication" during school hours, and only if it does not disrupt the learning environment.

School obesity centers

NC RALEIGH — Four Wake County high schools have created on-campus wellness centers for students and teachers as part of an effort to curb obesity in school-age children. The centers stocked with cardiovascular and strength-training equipment are the only ones in North Carolina, school officials say. A \$493,000 federal grant underwrote the centers.

Ivan leaves pets homeless

PA PITTSBURGH — Soggy and mud-covered dogs and cats have poured into western Pennsylvania animal shelters after the remnants of Hurricane Ivan caused flooding across the state. A spokeswoman says the Western Pennsylvania Humane Society in Pittsburgh took in 30 animals and received as many as 70 calls from people who had either lost or found a pet.

Photos and stories from wire services

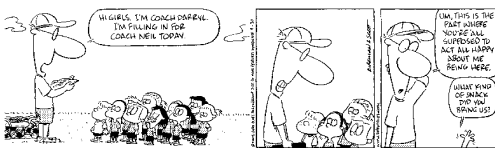
Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Bites



Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



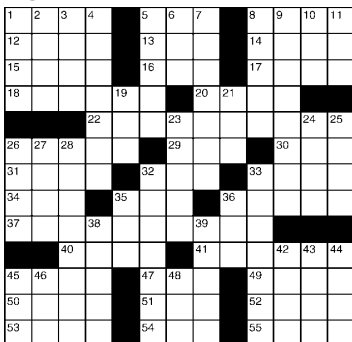
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Bubbly
5 Six-pack muscles
8 Tater
12 Notion
13 Moo — gai pan
14 Forum raiment
15 Layer
16 Listening device
17 Wan
18 Ancestry
20 Give a darn
22 Malfunctioning
25 Air! got
29 Illustrations
30 Conk out
31 Capri, e.g.
32 What little lambs eat
33 Pop
34 Miss Piggy's pronoun
35 Expert
36 "Crossfire" group
37 Extremoporeous
40 Thwart
41 Ornamental beetle
45 Stench
47 "Eureka!"
49 "Golden Girls" role
50 Mongrels
51 No Derby contender
52 Sacred wading bird
53 Commotion

Down

- 14 Ingenuity
2 Bowdlerize
3 Lecher's look
4 Literally, "empty orchestra"
5 Rep
6 Jungle crusher
7 Witchcraft
8 Harrison companion
9 Ship in a 1972 movie
10 "This tastes awful!"
11 Rotation duration
19 Powers that be
21 Sternward
23 Devastation
24 Ocean motion
25 Fervor
26 Wheels of fortune
27 Since
28 PBS' "Big Red Dog"
32 Green acres
33 Jungle jaunts
35 Greek consonant
36 Army rank (Abbr.)
38 Trunk
39 Grammarian's topic
42 Judicial garb
43 Largest of the seven
44 A-number-1
45 Autumnal abbr.
46 Pair
48 Dinner for Dobbin

Answer to Previous Puzzle



9-30

CRYPTOQUIP

LE ONFXNWX YXUJJS IUW'G
AULG ENY U EJNAXY GN
HJNNF, INTJP SNT OUS

CX'O HTPGCLYOGS?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHOULD A POOCH THAT DECIDES TO BECOME A U.S. PRESIDENT BE NAMED ROVER CLEVELAND?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals L

Switching genders a tough road

Dear Abby: I have a medical condition known as gender identity disorder — more commonly called transsexualism. I have prayed every night ever since I was a young boy that God would turn me into a girl. During my teens and into adulthood, I learned to live with the constant pain of pretending to be a man when, really, all I wanted was to live my life as a woman. However, earlier this year I began the gradual process to transition from male to female.

Dear Abby



After years of therapy for depression, ingesting dozens of different medications for a variety of misdiagnosed ailments, hospitalization for post-traumatic stress disorder, and daily thoughts of suicide, I made the decision to reveal my lifelong secret to my siblings, some friends and professional colleagues. Generally, the reaction has been supportive.

It is now time to tell my adult children and parents that I intend

to live the rest of my life as a woman. How to tell them, and what to tell them, is causing me great distress. Any advice you can offer would be appreciated. — "Lily" in the Valley

Dear "Lily": Tell them exactly what you have told me.

Explain that this is not a whim, but the actualization of something you have felt since you were a child. Tell them that making this choice has been so difficult that it has cost you years of depression, hospitalization and repeated thoughts of suicide.

Your parents and children are bound to be shocked, so be prepared for it. Answer their questions and concerns honestly.

Dear Abby: Veterans and their families might be interested to know about a new Web site: www.govbenefits.gov. It's government-sponsored, and organizes

500 federal and state benefit programs, targeting citizens into one single site. Veterans can log on, answer a few anonymous questions and find out which benefits they may be eligible to receive. It's also a helpful site for case workers, relatives or caregivers.

I answered the questions for my grandfather, a World War II veteran, from 1941-'45, and discovered 21 benefit programs for which he might be eligible.

— Keith Nelson, Washington, D.C.
Dear Keith: Bless you for sharing this information with my readers. Upon further investigation, I learned that www.govbenefits.gov was created by the U.S. Department of Labor, with contributions by 10 federal agencies and several states. There is at least one benefit in every state. The site also includes a Spanish language version: www.govbenefits.gov/es.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 6940, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet: <http://www.uspspress.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BOYTO
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

CEENI
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

DORPAY
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

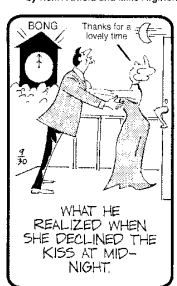
CUMAUUV
□ □ □ □ □ □ □ □

Answer: THE "BOYTO" WAS "TOYBO"

Yesterday's Jumbles: SWOON PERKY SEPTIC JACKAL

Answer: When she was "taken" by her friend's jealous she was reminded that he — WAS "TAKEN"

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By Henri Arnold and Mike Arginton



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE "BOYTO" WAS "TOYBO" (Answers tomorrow)

Friend short on discussion etiquette

Dear Annie: I have a friend who cannot refrain from trying to start a private, two-person conversation while there already is a lively group conversation in progress. I also work with "Ruth," and even during meetings, she tries to start a conversation with the person sitting next to her. There never has been a meeting where her name is not sharply spoken in order to bring her focus back to the group. She never seems embarrassed about the reprimand, nor is she apologetic.

Annie's Mailbox



have taken to thwarting her interruptions by saying, "I'm sorry, but I can only follow one conversation at a time." I did this twice in one day, and she looked shocked and distressed.

Ruth is in her 50s, and I suspect she has ADD. I casually mentioned the possibility to her (as if I suffered from it), and we reviewed an online list of symptoms together. Although she has 90 percent of the symptoms listed, Ruth was not impressed and shrugged off the information. If I am any more direct, I'm afraid I will lose her friendship.

After 20 years of knowing this woman, she has not changed her behavior. Do you have any suggestions or advice?

— Polite Conversationalist
in Boston

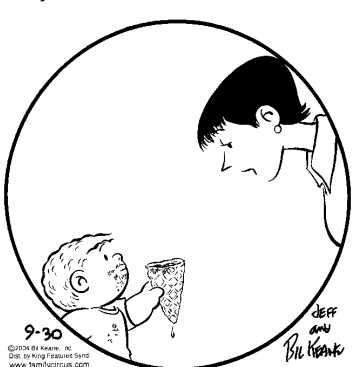
Dear Polite: Ruth may not realize she is being inappropriately, but over time, she has no doubt irritated people who are professionally and personally important to her. You were smart to frame her problem as if you also had one, so don't give up yet.

You would be doing Ruth a favor by pointing out that interruptions of this sort unintentionally alienate people, and it would be in her best interest to concentrate more on being part of the group conversation. Admit conspiratorially that this takes a lot of effort, and give her some pointers that you've "picked up."

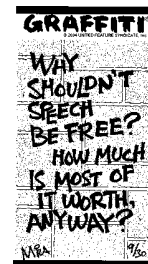
(P.S.: If you don't have the gumption to do this, be prepared to put up with her interruptions forever.)

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mailbox.com, or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Creators Syndicate

Family Circus



Are you sure I forgot to put ice cream in your cone?

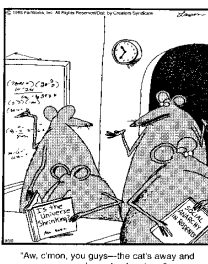


Dennis the Menace

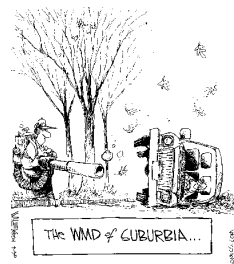


© Gary Larson

The Far Side



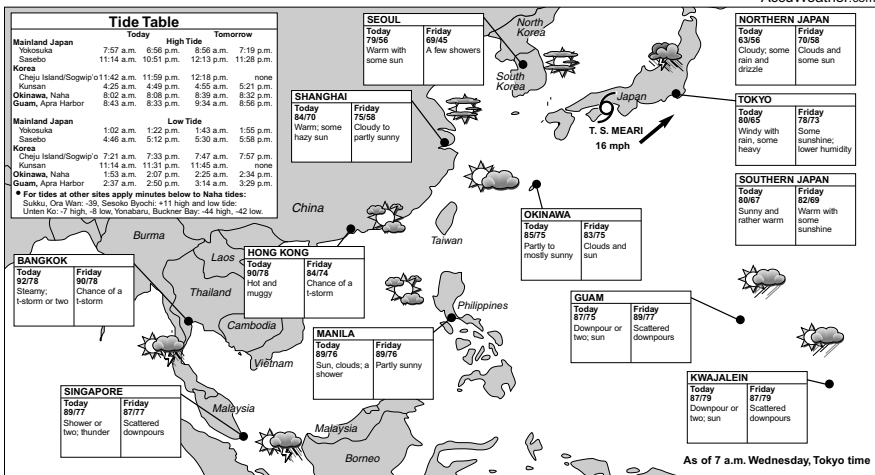
Non Sequitur



The Pacific Forecast

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AccuWeather.com



Extended Forecasts

TOKYO

Saturday: Partly sunny, high 81, low 66.
 Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 75, low 65.

KADENA

Saturday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 83, low 77.
 Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 83, low 75.

SEoul

Saturday: Mostly sunny, high 62, low 43.
 Sunday: Showers, high 66, low 48.

MANILA

Saturday: Showers, high 87, low 76.
 Sunday: Showers, high 87, low 76.

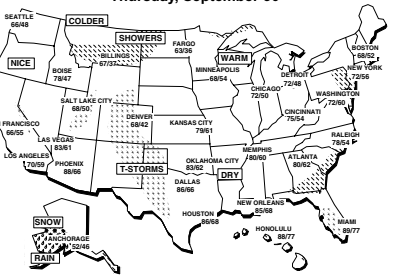
HAGATNA

Saturday: Thundershowers, high 89, low 77.
 Sunday: Showers, high 89, low 77.

Tuesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	70/52	Los Angeles	76/59
Amarillo	70/54	Little Rock	86/58
Anchorage	44/34	Louisville	83/55
Ashville	76/56	Miami	90/77
Baltimore	75/63	Milwaukee	64/45
Birmingham	84/61	Nashville	82/55
Bismarck	73/46	New York	76/58
Boise	86/55	Omaha	74/41
Boston	69/55	Orlando	91/72
Brownsville	91/69	Philadelphia	76/61
Buffalo	70/48	Phoenix	100/74
Burlington	72/47	Pittsburgh	68/62
Charleston, SC	89/67	Portland, OR	79/54
Charlotte	81/60	Portland, ME	69/51
Cleveland	71/53	Salt Lake City	62/58
Columbus, OH	75/54	St. Louis	75/49
Duluth	66/38	San Antonio	90/65
El Paso	77/55	San Diego	71/63
Hartford	69/55	San Juan	89/76
Helena	75/44	Tampa	84/54
Indianapolis	76/48	Tulsa	76/63
Jacksonville	93/69	Washington	76/63
Kansas City	74/43	Wichita	74/52

Thursday, September 30



U.S. Extended Forecast

The coldest air of the season will impact the northern United States Thursday, Friday and Saturday as a pool of polar air spins south through Canada. By late Thursday, rain will change to snow showers over Montana and northern North Dakota with temperatures plunging. This front will move quickly to the east and slowly weaken, but will still have enough punch to push cold air into the Upper Midwest by Saturday. Ahead of the front, temperatures will be warm, with plenty of sunshine and a gusty wind along the front. Severe thunderstorms may occur along the front as well as it pushes south and east. Meanwhile, a tranquil weather pattern is expected for the Pacific Coast as high pressure remains the dominant feature.

Thursday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	92/78	Iskani	80/68
Beijing	66/45	Kadena AB	85/75
Camp Casey	80/54	Kunsan AB	80/62
Christchurch	53/39	Kwajalein	87/79
Diego Garcia	84/75	Manila	89/76
Hagatna	82/75	Misawa AB	67/57
Hanoi	97/76	Osan	80/58
Hong Kong	90/78	Perth	66/45
Honolulu	88/77	Pusan	78/65

Thursday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	91/75	Budapest	62/41	Kabul	87/49	Nairobi	80/51
Athens	77/60	Buenos Aires	64/50	Kiev	57/41	New Delhi	89/76
Auckland	58/48	Cairo	101/72	Kuwait	105/73	Oslo	51/38
Baghdad	106/75	Cancun	84/72	London	64/46	Paris	63/47
Barbados	91/75	Cape Town	78/54	Madrid	84/63	Rio de Janeiro	66/57
Barcelona	65/48	Geneva	66/54	Mexico City	70/54	Rome	73/55
Berlin	57/43	Istanbul	71/55	Montreal	69/51	St. Petersburg	53/39
Bermuda	84/72	Jerusalem	95/72	Mogadishu	89/72	Stockholm	50/38
Brussels	59/47	Johannesburg	76/54	Moscow	54/40	Warsaw	53/36



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Jose Guillen

Union fighting Guillen's suspension

The Associated Press

ARLINGTON, Texas — The players' association filed a grievance Monday seeking to overturn the Anaheim Angels' suspension of left fielder Jose Guillen.

Guillen was suspended without pay for the rest of the season on Sunday because of his outburst after being lifted for a pinch runner a day earlier in Anaheim. The suspension would continue into



the postseason if the Angels advance that far.

The case will be heard by arbitrator Shyam Das in Oakland on Friday, the day the Angels start a regular season-ending series against the AL West-leading A's. General Manager Bill Stone-

man said the team would defend its move, but wouldn't go into details.

"It's something that's going to all be brought out in front of an arbitrator, and that's the appropriate setting," Stoneman said before the start of a four-game series in Texas. "Jose's conduct that followed [being lifted], that's the bulk of it. ... There was stuff seen publicly and stuff that wasn't."

Guillen was hit by a pitch opening the eighth inning of Saturday's 5-3 victory over Oakland. Manager Mike Scioscia sent Alfredo Arreola in to pinch him. After he walked off the field as the A's changed pitchers, Guillen tossed his helmet toward the side of the dugout. Scioscia was standing in and walked to the opposite side of the dugout. He then slammed his glove against the wall.

Scioscia spoke with Guillen after Sunday night's game, calling the outfielder after finding a note on his desk with a phone number.

"Jose obviously doesn't like being in this situation of not being able to play," Scioscia said Monday. "In the meeting we had [Sunday], Jose understood what happened. I think it sunk in, the magnitude of his actions causing the suspension."

Still, Scioscia said Guillen "didn't initiate any apology."

Guillen was not with the team in Texas, where the Angels entered the series just a game behind the Athletics. Guillen's agent, Adam Katz, has declined comment.

Giants closer suspended

NEW YORK — San Francisco Giants closer Dustin Hermanson was suspended for three games by Major League Baseball for intentionally throwing at and hitting Jeff Kent of the Houston Astros in a game last week.

MLB vice president Bob Watson also announced Tuesday that Hermanson has been fined an undisclosed amount.

Watson's announcement said Hermanson has filed an appeal, and that the suspension will remain on hold until the appeal process is completed.

Lawsuit filed over

Bonds' 700th home run ball

SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Giants fan who caught Barry Bonds' 700th homer is being sued by another man who says he is the rightful owner of the prized ball, which he maintains was stolen from him during a mad scramble.

According to a restraining order to be filed in state court Tuesday, Timothy Murphy said Steve Williams stole the historic blast from him during a melee in the left-center field bleachers at SBC Park on Sept. 17.

Williams said in an interview that he did not steal the ball but found it at the bottom of the heap of people.

"We all got in this pile. There were people everywhere," the 26-year-old from Pacifica said, adding that he did not kick or punch anybody to obtain the baseball.

Astacio, Halsey each

suspended three games

NEW YORK — Boston Red Sox pitcher Pedro Astacio and New York Yankees pitcher Brad Halsey were each suspended Tuesday for three games and fined an undisclosed amount by Major League Baseball after being ejected from Boston's 11-4 victory over the weekend.

Astacio and Halsey have filed appeals, and won't begin serving their suspensions until their appeals are heard.



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Red Sox lock up return to playoffs

Damon leads charge vs. Devil Rays

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Amid a boisterous clubhouse celebration, the Red Sox wanted to make one thing clear: Their party was just beginning.

"This is step one. It's been a long trip, but we're here," General Manager Theo Epstein said after Boston clinched its second straight trip to the playoffs with a 7-3 victory Monday night over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

"Now it's time to go to work. Everything that lays ahead of us is important. ... We're a very talented team. I think it's a confident group. We feel we can go up against anyone and hold our own. I hope we're playing for another five weeks."

Assured of no worse than the AL wild-card, the Red Sox closed within three games of the AL East-leading New York Yankees with six games remaining.

Players shook hands and ex-

AL Roundup

changed hugs and high-fives after the final out, then hustled into the clubhouse where they ran around, spraying one another with champagne, posing for pictures and dancing to hip-hop music.

When the champagne ran dry, they doused each other with beer and water.

To a man, though, the Red Sox stressed that they are not satisfied with just being in the playoffs.

"We spent four months being a team of frauds," 21-game winner Curt Schilling said. "I guess not a lot of people were expecting us to get to this point. There was a lot of uncertainty in the middle of the season the way we were playing, and rightfully so. But I think we all expected at some point to be in this position."

The Red Sox rallied from a 2-0 deficit on Johnny Damon's three-run homer, then put some distance between themselves and the Devil Rays on Manny Ramirez's AL-leading 43rd homer, a 458-foot blast that soared over the center-field wall.

Jason Varitek and David McCarty also homered, with all of the damage coming after Tampa Bay starter Scott Kazmir was ejected for hitting Ramirez and Kevin Millar with pitches in the fourth inning.

Tampa Bay manager Lou Piniella also was tossed after Kazmir plunked Ramirez and Millar in a span of four pitches. The first one appeared to be retaliation for Boston's Bronson Arroyo hitting Aubrey Huff and Tino Martinez the previous inning.

Kazmir, who held the Red Sox hitless for 3 1/3 innings, said he was not throwing at anyone.



Boston Red Sox's Johnny Damon, right, gets high-fives from teammates Kevin Youkilis, left, and Dave McCarty, center, after hitting a fifth-inning, three-run home run against the Tampa Bay Devil Rays on Monday. The Red Sox became the fourth team to clinch a playoff spot with the 7-3 victory in St. Petersburg, Fla.

"I didn't see why I wouldn't stay in the game," he said. "I was just doing what I had been doing all game — throwing inside."

Arroyo (10-9) has hit 20 batters this season, most in the major leagues. The right-hander settled down after giving up Julio Lugo's RBI double in the second inning and a sacrifice fly to Rocco Baldelli in the third to win his fifth straight decision and improve to 8-2 since ending a six-game losing streak on July 9.

Athletics 6, Mariners 5: After Barry Zito gave up a tying three-run homer to Willie Bloomquist, Oakland bounced back and maintained its one-game lead over Anaheim in the AL West.

Bobby Crosby's sacrifice fly with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning scored pinch-runner Esteban German with the winning run. Oakland (89-67) was coming off consecutive losses to the Angels.

Ichiro Suzuki was 1-for-4 to

pull within five hits of George Sisler's 84-year-old record of 257. Seattle has six games remaining.

Octavio Dotel (5-2) pitched a perfect ninth, getting two strikeouts and Mark Kotsay's clutch catch against the center-field wall on a hard-hit ball by Jose Lopez.

Angels 5, Rangers 3: At Arlington, Texas, Chone Piggins had an RBI triple off Kenny Rogers (17-9) in the eighth and scored the go-ahead run on Darin Erstad's infield grounder.

Bartolo Colon (17-12) allowed four hits in eight-plus innings, winning for the 12th time in 16 decisions and becoming the first pitcher to beat Texas six times in a season. Troy Percival escaped a bases-loaded jam in the ninth for his 31st save.

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 1: Gregg Zaun homered and Orlando Hudson had three hits at Baltimore, which had won four straight. The Orioles (74-81) are assured of their seventh straight season without a winning record.

Pitching in his third major league game, hard-throwing Brandon League (1-0) allowed one hit in 2 1/3 scoreless innings, and Miguel Batista got three outs for his fourth save. Sidney Ponson (11-15) gave up three runs and nine hits in six innings.

Tigers 4, White Sox 2: Dmitri Young hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the sixth at Detroit, which stopped a 22-inning scoreless streak and a five-game losing skid.

Gary Kootis (6-6) allowed two runs and five hits in 6 1/3 innings, and Esteban Yan got two outs for his sixth save, finishing a six-hit-ter.

Jason Grilli (2-2) pitched a three-hitter for his first complete game in 13 major league starts. Joe Crede homered, giving Chicago six players with 20 for the first time in franchise history.

Indians 6, Royals 1: Casey Blake drove in three runs, and Jake Westbrook (14-9) gave up five hits in seven innings at Kansas City. Jaime Cerda (1-3) was the loser.



Oakland's Bobby Crosby hits a sacrifice fly to score the winning run in the ninth inning Monday.

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Dodgers closing season strong

Beltre's slam brings first playoff berth since '96 within reach

The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — The Dodgers are closing in on their first playoff berth in eight years, and they're not about to leave their chances to fate.

"It's not meant to be," Adrian Beltre said. "You have to earn it."

He and the Dodgers are doing just that.

Beltre hit a grand slam, Milton Bradley singled home the winning run in the ninth

inning and Los Angeles edged the Colorado Rockies 8-7 Monday night, increasing its NL West lead to three games over idle San Francisco with six remaining.

Beltre hit his third slam of the season and leads the major leagues with 48 home runs, tying Hall of Famer Mike Schmidt's record for third basemen set in 1980 with Philadelphia.

The Dodgers have not reached the postseason since 1996, one year after winning their last division title. They haven't even won a playoff game since '88, when they upset Oakland in the World Series.

But they've been a charmed team this season, rallying for 50 comeback victories and winning 23 times in their final at-bat.

"If you're going to do things like that you have to have step-up, clutch performances," manager Jim Tracy said.

Los Angeles came back after trailing 7-5 in the eighth. Yency Brazoban (4-1) earned the win by retiring one batter, Vinny Castilla. The Dodgers used seven pitchers.

"That's usually the way those storied seasons go," Colorado manager Clint Hurdle said. "That's a reshuffled bullpen they have and they no-hit us the last five innings. They're doing the things you need to do to put you in the postseason."

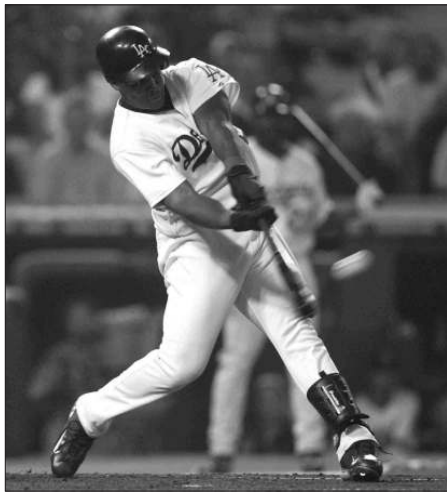
Steve Reed (3-8) gave up one out singles to Jayson Werth and Steve Finley in the ninth, putting runners at the corners. Beltre was intentionally walked and the Rockies pulled their infield in, but Bradley slapped a hard grounder past second baseman Aaron Miles to score Werth.

Castilla and Brad Hawpe homered for the Rockies. Todd Helton went 3-for-5 with three RBIs.

Cubs 12, Reds 5: Todd Walker homered and drove in four runs. Carlos Zambrano (16-8) won his fourth straight decision and the Cubs extended their wild-card lead to one game over San Francisco.

Corey Patterson, Derek Lee and Jose Macias also connected, and Nomar Garciaparra was 3-for-3 with a walk and a pair of RBIs. Adam Dunn hit his 43rd homer for Cincinnati.

Astros 10, Cardinals 3: At Houston, Roy



The Dodgers' Adrian Beltre connects for a grand slam in the second inning against the Colorado Rockies on Monday in Los Angeles. Beltre leads the majors with 48 homers.

Oswalt (19-10) became the NL's first 19-game winner, and the Astros remained 1½ games behind Chicago in the wild-card chase.

Pinch-hitter Jason Lane homered and Craig Biggio hit a two-run double. Carlos Beltran added a two-run triple, and Morgan Ensberg had a two-run double.

The NL Central-champion Cardinals had their five-game winning streak stopped. Second baseman Tony Womack left in the seventh after being hit on the left hand by a pitch from Oswalt. X-rays were negative. Woody Williams (11-8) gave up eight runs and 10 hits in three innings.

Diamondbacks 3, Brewers 1: At Phoenix, Randy Johnson struck out 10 in seven innings and Arizona snapped a six-game losing streak with a win over Ben Sheets (11-14).

Johnson (15-14) walked one in his 13th

double-digit strikeout game of the season and 20th of his career — 11 shy of Nolan Ryan's major league record. The Big Unit allowed one run and six hits.

Pirates 6, Phillies 1: At Philadelphia, Ty Wigginton hit a two-run homer, and Oliver Perez (11-10) pitched 6½ strong innings, eliminating the Phillies from postseason contention. Eric Milton (14-5) fell to 3-3 with nine no-decisions since the All-Star break.

Marlins 4, Expos 1: At Montreal, Josh Beckett (8-9) pitched seven sharp innings, and Miguel Cabrera hit his 31st homer for Florida. The Marlins, eliminated from playoff contention one day earlier, ended a season-high six-game losing streak.

Only 3,925 fans showed up for the opener of what is likely the Expos' final series in Montreal. Armando Benitez got his 45th save in 49 opportunities.

MLB officials: Announcement of Expos to D.C. likely Thursday

By RONALD BLUM
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Washington's wait could be almost over.

Exactly 33 years after the Washington Senators played their final game, the nation's capital might learn on Thursday that Major League Baseball plans to return next season.

Several baseball officials said Monday that the most likely day for an announcement that Washington, D.C., has been selected for the future home of the Montreal Expos is Thursday, although there was a slight chance the timetable could be moved up.

After a meeting of the sport's executive council last Thursday, a high-ranking baseball official who spoke on the condition of anonymity said Major League Baseball would attempt to finalize negotiations with Washington within a week. It would be the first franchise relocation in the major leagues since the expansion Washington Senators became the Texas Rangers after the 1971 season.

The deal to move the Expos to Washington would be subject to government approval of funding for both a \$13 million refurbishment of RFK Stadium and a new ballpark costing slightly over \$400 million, which would be built along the Anacostia River in the southeast section of the city.

A move also must be approved by three-quarters of major league owners and survive legal challenges by the Expos' former limited partners and possibly by Baltimore owner Peter Angelos, who objects to having a team just 40 miles from his. Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, went to Baltimore on Friday to negotiate a compensation arrangement with Angelos.

The Orioles owner told The (Baltimore) Sun that he could be persuaded to drop his opposition if he could be assured that his team and the state of Maryland's investment in Oriole Park at Camden Yards could be protected.

"If those two goals can be accomplished, and I feel the franchise would be secure and the revenue stream is protected and the asset value is secure, it might be possible to make a deal," Angelos told The Sun for a story Tuesday.

The original Washington Senators played 4,610 home games before becoming the Minnesota Twins after the 1960 season, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The expansion Senators played 883 home games before moving to Texas.

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Rally: Parcells keeps his edge on Gibbs

RALLY, FROM BACK PAGE

Brunell was 25-for-43 for 325 yards, including 167 yards and two touchdowns to Gardner.

The Cowboys lost cornerback Pete Hunter to a sprained left knee in the first quarter, and Parcells said the injury might be a season-ending ACL tear. Hunter was replaced by rookie Jacques Reeves.

In the first half, the officials nearly overshadowed the coaches. Parcells and Gibbs each used a replay challenge in the first 7½ minutes, and Gibbs tried to use another one on a play that was declared non-reviewable. Both first-half scoring drives benefited from questionable calls.

Asked about the officiating, Gibbs said: "There are probably 100 plays in that thing that you wish you could have back or have gone the other way, but that's life up here."

Parcells was more blunt: "This challenge thing is a joke for the head coaches. You have to rely on upstairs, and it's hard. It's just blind faith."

The key play on Dallas' touchdown drive was a pass interference call on cornerback Walt Harris, who stumbled as he was grabbed by Glenn as both chased a long pass down the right side-line. Harris was called for putting his hand up while falling in a desperate bid to impede Glenn, resulting in a 40-yard penalty that gave Dallas the ball on the 1.

Dallas scored on the next play on a run by Eddie George, whose streak of 130 consecutive starts came to an end. The streak is an NFL record from the start of a career. His touchdown was only the

"This challenge thing is a joke for the head coaches."

Bill Parcells
Cowboys coach

second allowed by the Redskins defense this season.

The Redskins rebounded to score late in the first half thanks to a beneficial call on a third-down play. Clinton Portis' knee was clearly down by contact short of the first down after a reception, but he was allowed to get up and run for a 12-yard gain. Brunell then made three big completions to move the ball to the 1, but the Cowboys' defense held Washington to a 19-yard field goal by John El.

Dallas struck quickly to take a 14-3 lead early in the third quarter, going 80 yards in four plays. Antonio Bryant stepped in front of cornerback Fred Smoot for a 45-yard reception, then Testaverde found Keyshawn Johnson over the middle for a 23-yard gain. On the next play, tight end Jason Witten was open in the back corner of the end zone for a 10-yard TD catch.

The Redskins struck back immediately for their first touchdown, although they needed a fourth-and-1 completion to keep the drive alive. Marcellus Wiley was called for the infraction for shoving Brunell with a forearm to the head, giving Brunell second life on a drive in which he was 6-for-7, including a 1-yard throw to Gardner for the score.

NFL scoreboard

American Conference

	East	West	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	2	0	0	1,000	59	25	25
N.Y. Jets	2	0	0	1,000	59	25	25
Buffalo	2	0	0	1,000	59	25	25
Miami	2	0	0	1,000	59	25	25
Jacksonville	1	0	1,000	35	28	28	28
Indianapolis	1	0	1,000	35	28	28	28
Houston	1	0	1,000	35	28	28	28
Tennessee	1	0	1,000	35	28	28	28
Baltimore	2	1	0	667	56	44	44
Pittsburgh	2	1	0	667	56	44	44
Cincinnati	1	1	0	333	49	49	49
Cleveland	1	1	0	333	49	49	49
Denver	0	0	667	63	44	44	44
Oakland	2	0	0	1,000	59	25	25
San Diego	2	0	0	1,000	59	25	25
Kansas City	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

National Conference

	East	West	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Philadelphia	1	0	1,000	89	46	46	46
Minnesota	1	0	1,000	89	46	46	46
N.Y. Giants	2	0	0	667	64	55	55
Washington	2	0	0	667	64	55	55
Atlanta	2	0	1,000	61	39	39	39
New Orleans	2	0	667	63	44	44	44
Baltimore	2	0	0	1,000	59	25	25
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Detroit	2	1	0	667	61	52	52
Minnesota	1	1	0	333	49	49	49
Chicago	1	1	0	333	49	49	49
Green Bay	1	1	0	333	49	49	49
West	2	0	1,000	72	36	36	36
St. Louis	2	0	0	1,000	59	25	25
Carolina	2	0	0	1,000	59	25	25
San Francisco	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

American's games

Atlanta, 6 Sunday 3	Philadelphia 3, Detroit 13
N.Y. Giants 27, Cleveland 10	Houston 24, Kansas City 21
New Orleans 26, St. Louis 25	OT Jacksonville 15, Tennessee 12
Baltimore 23, Cincinnati 10	Minnesota 27, Chicago 22
Denver 23, San Diego 13	Indianapolis 45, Green Bay 31
Pittsburgh 11, Miami 3	Oakland 26, Tampa Bay 20
OT: Buffalo, New England, N.Y. Jets, Carolina	

National's games

Dallas 21, Washington 38	Sunday, Oct. 3
Oakland at Pittsburgh	Philadelphia at Chicago
Green Bay at Cincinnati	Indianapolis at Pittsburgh
Indianapolis at Jacksonville	Buffalo at Cleveland
New Orleans at Arizona	San Francisco at San Diego
N.Y. Jets at Miami	Denver at Tampa Bay
Seattle at San Francisco	OT: Seattle, Dallas, Detroit, Minnesota

Sunday, Oct. 3

Kansas City at Baltimore	Sunday, Oct. 10
Detroit at Atlanta	Atlanta at Dallas
Minnesota at Houston	Atlanta at Indianapolis
Miami at New England	Tampa Bay at New Orleans
Cleveland at Pittsburgh	Buffalo at New York Jets
Jacksonville at San Diego	Carolina at Denver
Arizona at San Francisco	St. Louis at Baltimore
Baltimore at Washington	OT: Cincinnati, Kansas City, Philadelphia
Tennessee at Green Bay	

Monday

Cowboys 21, Redskins 18	Monday
Dallas at Washington	First Quarter

Dal-Gore 1 run (Gusickick), 4:01.	
Was-Fal 10, 4:01.	

Second Quarter	
Dal-Witten 1 pass from Testaverde (Cuniff kick), 8:47.	

Third Quarter	
Dal-Witten 1 pass from Testaverde (Cuniff kick), 8:47.	

Fourth Quarter	
Dal-Glenn 26 pass from Anderson (Cuniff kick), 1:03.	

Was-Gardner 15 pass from Brunell (Jacks kick), 3:50.	
--	--

First downs	Dal 21	Was 21
Total Net Yards	Was 257	Dal 257

Butler-yards	21-29	24-34
Passing	21-29	24-34

Punt Returns	8-67	3-18
Kickoff Returns	4-65	3-70

Interceptions Ret.	0-0	0-0
Fumbles-Lost	15-30	25-45

Penalties-Yards	5-40	6-60
Time of Possession	31:28	28:32

Individual Statistics		
Rushing	11-116	11-116

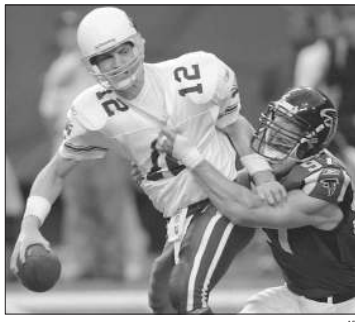
Throwing	11-116	11-116
Receiving	11-116	11-116

Passing	11-116	11-116
Receiving	11-116	11-116

Writing	3-22	Anderson 3-43
Johnson 1-23	D. Campbell 1-3	

Gardner 1-23	Coles 5-42
Throck 4-42	Portis 3-37

Cooley 2-22	Royal 1-10
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Cardinals quarterback Josh McCown is sacked by Falcons defensive end Patrick Kerney on Sunday. Despite three fumbles in the game, McCown will remain Arizona's starting quarterback.

McCown still starter for puncheon Cards

BY MEL REISNER

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Despite being benched after three fumbles against Atlanta, Josh McCown is still the Arizona Cardinals' quarterback.

Given Dennis Green's track record with Minnesota, McCown might not have a lot of time to learn the position — the coach used seven different quarterbacks to get the Vikings to the playoffs eight times.

Green said Monday that McCown needs to learn how to make better reads on when to scramble and when to get rid of the ball.

"You just have to make sure you're protecting the ball, particularly in a hard-hitting game," Green said. "It was hard-hitting on both ends, so Michael Vick was disappointed in the ones he lost, and Josh was disappointed in the ones he lost."

Green said McCown has to temper his athleticism, which makes his scrambles a threat, with better feel for pressure.

"There will be times when a defense will give you a look, you don't anticipate or somebody misses a block — whatever the case may be — and you've just got to get rid of the ball," he said.

McCown was 20-for-26 for 198 yards, completing 13 consecutive passes at one point, but wasn't able to guide the offense to a touchdown in a 6-3 loss to the Falcons. Two of McCown's fumbles and one by wide receiver Karl Williams occurred inside Atlanta's 20-yard line.

The Cardinals (0-3) got the ball back on Adrian Wilson's interception after McCown was sacked for the fifth time and lost the ball for the third time. Shaun King replaced McCown under center with 11:35 left in the game.

The Cardinals gained 6 yards in three plays before Neil Rackers kicked a 30-yard field goal.

Green has been trying to im-

prove the offensive line since waiving center Pete Kendall and said better blocking would help.

"We can work hard and also have some replacements. We'll look at both areas," Green said.

It is surprising it's taking us this long to tie together," right tackle Anthony Clement said. "I would've thought this would have happened a long time ago."

The Cardinals would have been in position to at least tie the game when Williams got the ball to the Falcons 7 on a reverse with 2:26 left, but he sustained a stinger when he was hit by Chris Draft and couldn't hang onto the ball.

"He lost feeling in the arm and the ball came out," Green said.

"You know, you create your good luck, and bad luck is something that can happen to you. We did not create any good luck yesterday, but we did have a few bad-luck plays, and that was one of them. He's had that stinger before, and got hit right there."

Green didn't expect Williams to miss any time this week and said the team was in relatively good health except for backup defensive tackle Ross Kolodziej, who will be out two to three weeks with a sprained ankle, and linebacker James Darling, who left the game with a concussion.

Green said wide receiver Anquan Boldin, last year's NFL rookie of the year who had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee after a warmup-exercise injury on Aug. 11, should be able to return sometime between mid-October to Nov. 1. Boldin's absence has hampered the development of the offense and forced rookie wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald, the No. 3 pick in this year's draft, to endure near-perpetual double coverage.

The Falcons held Fitzgerald to 36 yards and five catches.

"That's something you're going to see in this league every week," Fitzgerald said. "I am physical enough to get off the line of scrimmage."

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Matches contested in the muck

BY DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Parents spend much of a child's life preaching about the virtues of not playing in mud.

"Well, I guess we didn't listen, did we?" said mud-covered captain Duane Thompson of Okinawa's 3rd Force Service Support Group soccer team.

While the rain had finally moved on, its after-effects lingered quite visibly on Day 2 of the Marine Forces Pacific Regional Soccer Tournament.

Already battered by week-end-long rain associated with Typhoon Meari, Foster Field 1 got no help Tuesday from gusty southerly winds and occasional sunshine. As a result, the mud that stretched from end to end of the field worsened, if that was possible.

Despite slippery playing fields and churned turf, the teams managed to complete seven games Tuesday — but the conditions led at least one coach to suggest a change in venue, even temporarily, to give Field 1 a chance to recover.

"The field needs one or two days so they can do some maintenance on it," said Peter Burcheson of Okinawa's 1st Marine Aircraft Wing.

Marine Forces Pacific Regional Soccer Tournament

At Field 1, Foster Field Complex, Camp Foster, Okinawa
Day 2 standings

	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Pts
3rd Force, Okinawa	3	1	2	11	9	9	9
Base, Okinawa	3	1	2	7	4	9	9
Wing, Okinawa	3	1	2	5	8	9	9
Hawaii	2	2	5	7	6	6	6
Hospital, Okinawa	2	2	5	6	6	6	6
Iwakuni, Japan	1	3	2	5	10	3	3
Division, Okinawa	0	4	2	0	5	12	0

Tuesday's scores							
Base 2, Hawaii 0							
Hospital 2, Division 1							
Base 2, Iwakuni 1, 50 (4-0)							
Base 2, Division 1, 50 (4-3)							
Wing 2, Hospital 1							
3rd Force 2, Iwakuni 0							



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Odair Correia and Gabriel Mallery, left and middle, of Marine Corps Base Hawaii go up to head the ball along with Michael Williamson of Marine Corps Base Camp Butler on Tuesday at Camp Foster, Okinawa. Base blanked two-time defending champion Hawaii 2-0.

He suggested moving the tournament to one of Camp Foster's other fields, or perhaps to Paterman Air Station where fields "aren't as saturated."

However, according to Marine Corps Community Services Semper Parit Athletics officials, no other fields were available — and even had one been, quickly moving from one field to another would take time and interrupt play.

"This is the best field we have," said Semper Parit's Mike Walker, one of the tournament's organizers. "Despite the weather, we shall overcome. The teams seem to be happy. Everybody's got a nice equilibrium and balance. Everybody's here to play."

Burcheson's concerns were two-fold:

The goosy field conditions would cause the "quality of play to go way down," he said, in a tournament that helps select players for the All-Marine tryout camp Oct. 11-Nov. 1 and for the All-Armed Forces Tournament Nov. 2 - 9 at San Diego.

"You might also start to see injuries," he said. "A slippery field will cause that."

Only a few minor bumps and bruises, mainly caused by physical contact, occurred Tuesday.

But keeping one's footing was a daunting challenge, especially for referees, who battled to stay upright while keeping players' tempers, already frayed by the conditions, in check.

"Now that the grass is dug up, you don't have anything to take hold," said David Abel of the Ryukyu International Soccer Association, which provides officials for the tournament.

The field conditions, he said, can cause players to "lose their temper and it takes them out of their game. You have to assure players that they're slipping more than being fouled, and to just keep playing."

The mud even affected play on the sidelines, where linemen roam with their flags to make off-side calls. Tuesday, their run of half the field each got so bad that they switched sides of the field. For the center referee, that meant looking to the left instead of the right to watch for flags.

"It makes a referee have to think more about positioning, besides the play," said Scott Samdahl of Yokota Air Base, the U.S. Soccer Federation's state referee for the Pacific region, who's at the tournament to assess RISA referees.

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Bryant defense drops its bid to seal evidence

The Associated Press

DENVER — Kobe Bryant's attorneys abruptly dropped a bid to seal evidence in the NBA star's rape Monday, saying the details would be leaked anyway and that releasing all the documents will reveal how unprofessional the prosecution was.

In a scathing court filing, defense attorney Pamela Mackey alleged "unlawful or improper conduct" by law enforcement officers and prosecutors in the case, including the leaking of information and suppression of evidence suggesting Bryant was innocent.

Prosecution spokeswoman Krista Flannigan said prosecutors were evaluating the filing. She declined further comment.

District Attorney Mark Hurlbert dropped the felony sexual assault charge against Bryant at the alleged victim's request Sept. 1. He recently said evidence and documents in the case should be released, saying the public's interest in reviewing actions and decisions by prosecutors and the judge outweighed Bryant's privacy concerns.

There was no immediate indication whether District Judge Richard Hart would open the files after the defense's court filing Monday in Eagle.

Bryant still faces a federal civil suit filed by the accuser seeking unspecified damages for pain, suffering, public scorn, hatred and ridicule.

Hornets forward Mashburn out for the season

NEW ORLEANS — Former All-Star forward Jamal Mashburn will miss the entire 2004-05 NBA season because of a knee injury that could end his career.

Mashburn and the New Orleans Hornets announced the news Monday, a week before the start of training camp.

The injury kept Mashburn, a 10-year veteran, out of all but 19 games last season after he underwent surgery to remove loose particles from his right knee. Mashburn said strenuous activity caused

Sports briefs

es the knee to swell as badly as it did last March when his season ended. He averaged 20.8 points.

During a news conference, Mashburn acknowledged the injury could end his career, which began in 1993 as a first-round draft choice of the Dallas Mavericks. He also had a stint with the Miami Heat before joining the Hornets in 2000 and making the All-Star team during the 2002-03 season.

"I have to remain optimistic," he said. "Hopefully, I can get better with rest. This is my livelihood. I have to stay positive."

Mercury's Taurasi wins WNBA Rookie of Year award

PHOENIX — Diana Taurasi of the Phoenix Mercury was a runaway selection Monday as the WNBA's rookie of the year.

Taurasi became the second No. 1 overall draft pick to win the award, joining Chamique Holdaway of Washington in 1999.

The point guard was fourth in the league in scoring (17.0), 10th in assists (3.9) and 14th in minutes played (33.2), while also averaging 4.4 rebounds and 1.2 steals.

174 NHL players now in Europe

TORONTO — Dmitri Afanasevich of the Stanley Cup champion Tampa Bay Lightning became the latest NHL player to head to Europe, agreeing on Tuesday to return home to Russia during the lockout.

The wing will play for Lada Togliatti of the Russian league.

Afanasevich had six goals and 10 assists in 71 regular-season games last season and a goal and two assists in 23 playoff games.

There are 174 NHL players in Europe, about 25 percent of the league's roster spots. Most of those players have clauses in their contracts that permit them to return to the NHL if the labor impasse ends in time to salvage a season.

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Hall of Fame

Top Scores for Week 3

210	SEAHAWK FAN	MOMAU FIVE
210	Texas Are Champs	HHC III Corps
208	junya	51MDG Osan AB, Korea
206	huttbama	Aviano
200	Steel City Player	RAMSTEIN
200	Chief	35th S&S Bn
200	Houston	Yongsan
198	awc2002	MNF
198	NUPE NUPE	HND 264TH CSB
198	That Guy	Kadena AB, Japan

Best Overall Scores

610	Chickybowow	726 AMS
600	razor	86 mrg/qa
600	glants#1	HMC 237 ar
588	Jaguar One	DoDD5
584	steeler on the rhine	Sembach AB
580	JackSB	422 ABS RAF Croughton
578	me	Darmstadt
574	WPNLead	spangdahlem
574	Hillbilly	52 ANXS
572	DR DOOM	Heidelberg

See websites for official game rules.

Check this space every Thursday during the entire NFL season for the weeks Top Scores and Best Overall Scores during the NFL Challenge.

HOME TEAM

A WEEKLY LOOK AT LOCAL SPORTS

Spike is the win column

Yokota volleyball team benefits from a better attitude

BY DAVE ORNAUER

Stars and Stripes

Though the players are pretty much the same, the difference in Yokota's volleyball team from last year to this season is night and day.

In 2003, the Panthers muddled through a 7-11 regular season, then went winless for the first four days of the Far East High School Class AA Tournament. They finally broke through on the fifth day, in their last match, to finish 15th in a 16-team field.

Look at them now. The Panthers streaked to an 8-0 record — the best in school history — sweeping three Japan Volleyball League matches with Edgren and the

two-match season series with Zama American. The winning streak ended Saturday with a four-set loss to Seisen International. But Seisen had won for it, winning 26-24, 25-16, 24-26, 25-19. "They've been playing super good," Yokota coach Bonnie Seely said.

"The fans are loving it. Even when we lost, everybody was coming up to me and saying, 'Now, that's some volleyball.'"

This year's team has more maturity, experience and chemistry, said captain and setter Darlene Seely, the coach's daughter.

"They all witnessed the harm done last year with the attitudes," Bonnie Seely said. "We've gone over and over how important it is to have a good attitude and keep the melodrama out."

"We had the talent last year," said Darlene, who posted 167 set assists in the team's nine matches this season. But this year, she said, "we really have good personalities on the team. Everybody gets along. We try to leave all that

outside stuff out of the court."

A far cry, Bonnie said, from last year's discontented lot that was "arguing on the court from the get-go."

From the first day of practice, the coach said, the concepts of "good attitude" and "no drama" have been drilled into the players.

Having six seniors, including Seely, middle blockers Shawna Vitabro, Rachel Wright and Andrea Thomas and outside hitter Jonica Childress, was of great help, she said, along with junior Shiori Kaneko.

"We're determined not to let anything take us down because we have so much potential," the coach said. "They're working hard, not just on the court, but in all aspects of being a teammate."

"If one person's upset, then everybody's upset and it radiates" among the rest of the team, Darlene Seely added. "If we all get along, everything works well and that's happening this season."

Other coaches have noticed, including Sarah Richardson, who has coached Edgren since

Bonnie Seely
Yokota coach

1990.

"They have so much confidence on the court, and that's something you just can't give kids," Richardson said. "They hustle and move. You seldom find any of them standing around. I think they'll be a force to reckon with at Far East."

The Class AA tournament is six weeks away. But the Seelys exude confidence that a far different Yokota team will compete in Far East this year.

"We're saying we're good enough to finish in the top whatever number," the coach said. "Yokota's going to be up there this year."

"We can really excel at Far East," her daughter added. "You won't see a 15th-place finish. Not even close."

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JIM SCHULZ/Stars and Stripes

Yokota junior outside hitter Shiori Kaneko spikes the ball against Seisen International senior Yuri Koshibe (17) on Saturday at Yokota Air Base, Japan. Yokota lost for the first time in nine matches this season.

This week's schedule

Japan

Football

Thursday, Sept. 30
American School in Japan at Yokota, 5:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 1

Nile C. Kinnick at Robert D. Edgren, 7 p.m.

Girls volleyball

Friday, Oct. 1

Zama American Academy at D. Edgren, 7 p.m.
Int'l School of the Sacred Heart at Seisen Int'l, 7 p.m.

Matthew C. Perry at E.J. King, 7 p.m.
Nile C. Kinnick at Christian Academy in Japan, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 2

Zama at Edgren, 10 a.m.
Kinnick at Seisen, 10 a.m.

St. Mary's Int'l Seisen Int'l and E.J. King at Yokota, 10 a.m.

Kinnick at Yokohama Int'l, 7 p.m.
Yokota at St. Mary Int'l, 7 p.m.

Girls

Friday, Oct. 1

Robert D. Edgren at Nile C. Kinnick, 5:30 p.m.

Saturday, Oct. 2

St. Mary's Int'l Seisen Int'l and E.J. King at Yokota, 9 a.m.

Edgren at Zama American, 9 a.m.
Kinnick at Christian Academy in Japan, 9 a.m.

Cross country

Saturday, Oct. 2

Int'l School of the Sacred Heart, Yokota, Christian Academy in Japan, Nile C. Kinnick, St. Mary Int'l, E.J. King, Yokohama Int'l, Zama American, Seisen Int'l and St. Mary's Int'l at Tama Hills Recreation Center, Tokyo, 9 a.m.

Guam

Football

Saturday, Oct. 2

Guam Int'l Christian Academy vs. Simon Sanchez at Eagle Field, 10 a.m.

Father Duenas Memorial at John F. Kennedy, 10 a.m.

Guam High at Southern, 3 p.m.

Girls

Saturday, Oct. 2

Father Duenas Memorial/Academy of Our Lady vs. St. Paul Central, 10 a.m.

Guam High at Simon Sanchez, Notre Dame vs. St. John's at Tualala Beach, Harvest Christian Academy at George Washington, Southern, John F. Kennedy, 3 p.m.

Girls volleyball

Friday, Oct. 1

John F. Kennedy vs. Simon Sanchez at Yigo Gym, Guam Int'l Christian Academy at St. John's, Harvest Christian Academy vs. George Washington at Guam Sports Complex, Academy of Our Lady at Notre Dame, Southern at Guam High.

Postseason

Tuesday, Oct. 5

Game 1 - Fourth-place Tadga vs. fifth-place Tadga, 6 p.m.

Game 2 - First-place Tadga vs. sixth-place Tadga, 6 p.m.

Game 3 - Fourth-place Tadga vs. fifth-place Tadga, 6 p.m.

Game of the week

Football

Kubasaki Samual (2-0)

at Kadema Islanders (2-0)

When? 3 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 2.
Where? Panthers Field, Kadema High School, Kadema Air Base, Okinawa.

What? Battle for first place between league's two unbeaten teams, bidding for early jump in race for seed in Island's postseason playoffs, as Okinawa Activities Council football season reaches halfway mark.

Player to Watch: Spearheading the Islanders' defense have been Grady Perrell (two fumble recoveries, one sack) and Ted Awana (two interceptions, one sack). The ground-oriented offense is led by halfbacks David McCowan (202 yards, nine touchdowns, 34 carries) and Kevin Lowry (137 yards, two touchdowns, 29 attempts). Sophomore receiver the Samurais, with 104 yards and a touch-down, is the lone family member to have a touchdown and a 79-yard kick-return touchdown, two total fumble recoveries and a sack.

Chris Johnson

Football
Zama American, Japan

Last week: Rushed 18 times for 137 yards and two touchdowns as the Trojans recorded their first victory of the season in four tries, holding off American School in Japan 22-18 Saturday at Mustang Valley on ASU's Chofu campus in western Tokyo.

The accelerated senior, who became



one of coach Ron Geisl's team captains last week, scored on runs of 21 and 12 yards in the first half. Including the second half of Zama's 14-12 loss the week before to Robert D. Edgren, Johnson has gained 265 yards and scored four times on his past 35 carries.

"He's brought the offense alive," Geisl said. "He needs to stay tower but he likes to hit, whether he's carrying the ball or whether he's on defense. He's a player, the kind of player a coach likes to have."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

Rachel Miller

Girls volleyball
Seoul American, South Korea

Last week: Scored 13 spike kills in 40 hitting attempts with only five errors, and seven aces on 22-for-27 serving to boost the Falcons (6-0) past the Seoul Foreign Crusaders 25-19, 27-25, 21-25, 25-20 in a battle for first place in the Korean-American Intercollegiate Activities Conference.

Miller, a senior transfer from Louisiana,



has been instrumental in the Falcons' success. She's racked up 41 kills in 94 attempts and 22 aces on 60-for-75 serving this season.

"Rachel has been a great addition to the team," coach Denny Hilgar said. "She's extremely devoted to herself, which radiates out to the rest of the squad, forcing them to perform better also. She's still working on refining some aspects of her game, which should make her even more potent later on."

Selected by Stars and Stripes staff.

ATHLETES OF THE WEEK

SPORTS

Dallas derails rally



Red Sox clinch wild card,
still have sights on Yankees,
Page 33



FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM/KCT

Dallas' Tony Dixon (24) Jacques Reeves (35) and Terence Newman (41) stop Washington receiver Laveranues Coles (80) at the 1-yard line late in the second quarter. The Redskins had first and goal but had to settle for a field goal in their 13th loss in the past 14 games against Dallas.

Redskins run out of time, fall to Cowboys

BY JOSEPH WHITE

The Associated Press

LANDOVER, Md. — No one will mistake this game for the great Bill Parcells-Joe Gibbs duels of the 1980s, but the drama definitely was back when the rivalry resumed.

The Dallas Cowboys couldn't run the ball and were dominated in time of possession. The Washington Redskins allowed five sacks and were hurt by early penalties and drops and wasted second-half timeouts.

It added up to a 21-18 victory Monday night by Parcells' Cowboys over Gibbs' Redskins.

"How many times in this era are you going to see coaches like that come together?" said Dallas safety Tony Dixon, who had two sacks. "It's an honor that we'll be able to look back and see a classic game and see Parcells and Gibbs on the sidelines — and hopefully see some of the plays I made."

In their first meeting in 14 years, Parcells showed he still has Gibbs' number. The Dallas

coach has won 12 of 18 meetings and seven in a row against the Hall of Fame coach, the rest coming when Parcells' New York Giants and Gibbs' Redskins were strong NFC East rivals from 1983-90.

"It wasn't pretty," Parcells said. "But we're happy to win on the road. Anytime you can come some place on a Monday night, in a rivalry like this, and you're able to win, you have to be happy."

In the end, Parcells pulled the final trick: a halfback option that produced the last touchdown for the Cowboys (2-1). Gibbs, meanwhile, was left to rue two wasted timeouts and another loss on a failed replay challenge. With just one more timeout, the Redskins (1-2) would have had a chance to kick a tying field at the end.

"I feel bad because I'm the guy who is supposed to get it done," Gibbs said. "It's still early. We're 1-2, and there are a lot of good teams that are 1-2 right now."

The victory, Dallas' 13th in its past 14 meet-

ings with Washington, made Parcells the 10th NFL coach to win 150 regular-season games.

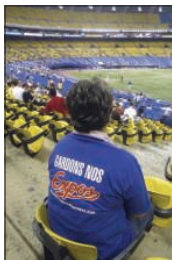
The trick play was a pass from running back Richie Anderson that floated into the hands of Terry Glenn in the back of the end zone early in the fourth quarter, giving the Cowboys a 21-10 lead and enough cushion to survive a Redskins comeback.

Mark Brunell, playing one week after straining his hamstring in a loss to the Giants, cut the lead to three when he hit Rod Gardner for a touchdown pass and Taylor Jacobs for a 2-point conversion with 4:30 to play.

But the Cowboys were able to use all but 21 seconds on the clock on their final drive because Washington was out of timeouts. The Redskins managed two plays in the dying seconds, ending with a 46-yard pass to Gardner at the Dallas 21. Time expired because Gardner could not get out of bounds.

Vinny Testaverde was 14-for-29 for 214 yards for the Cowboys.

SEE RALLY ON PAGE 35



Announcement
on Expos' future
likely to come
on Thursday

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Mariners slog
through muck in
soccer tourney

Page 38



Hospitalized McNair
joins growing list
of injured stars

Page 37

New attitude making Yokota volleyball a hit Page 39



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